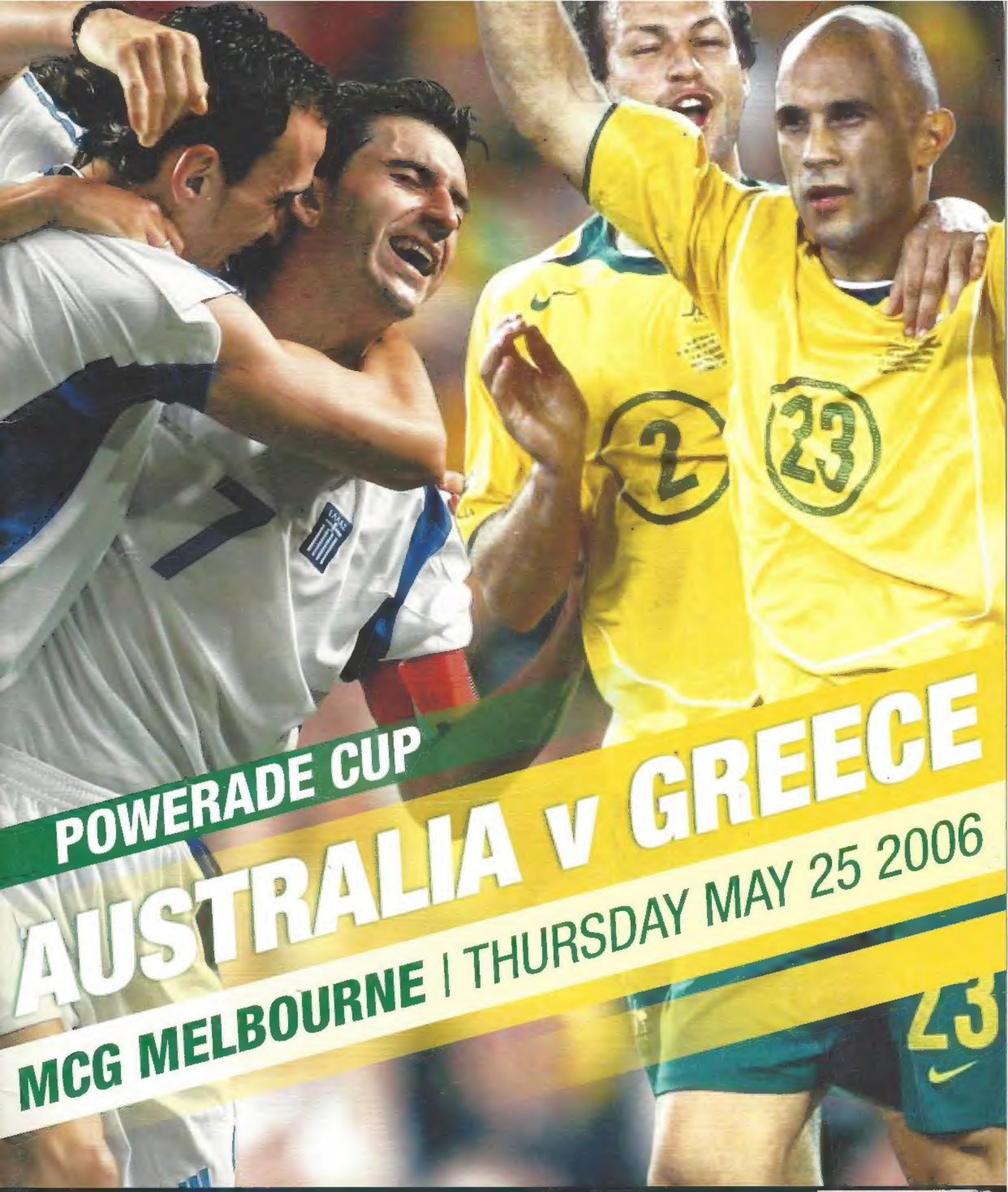


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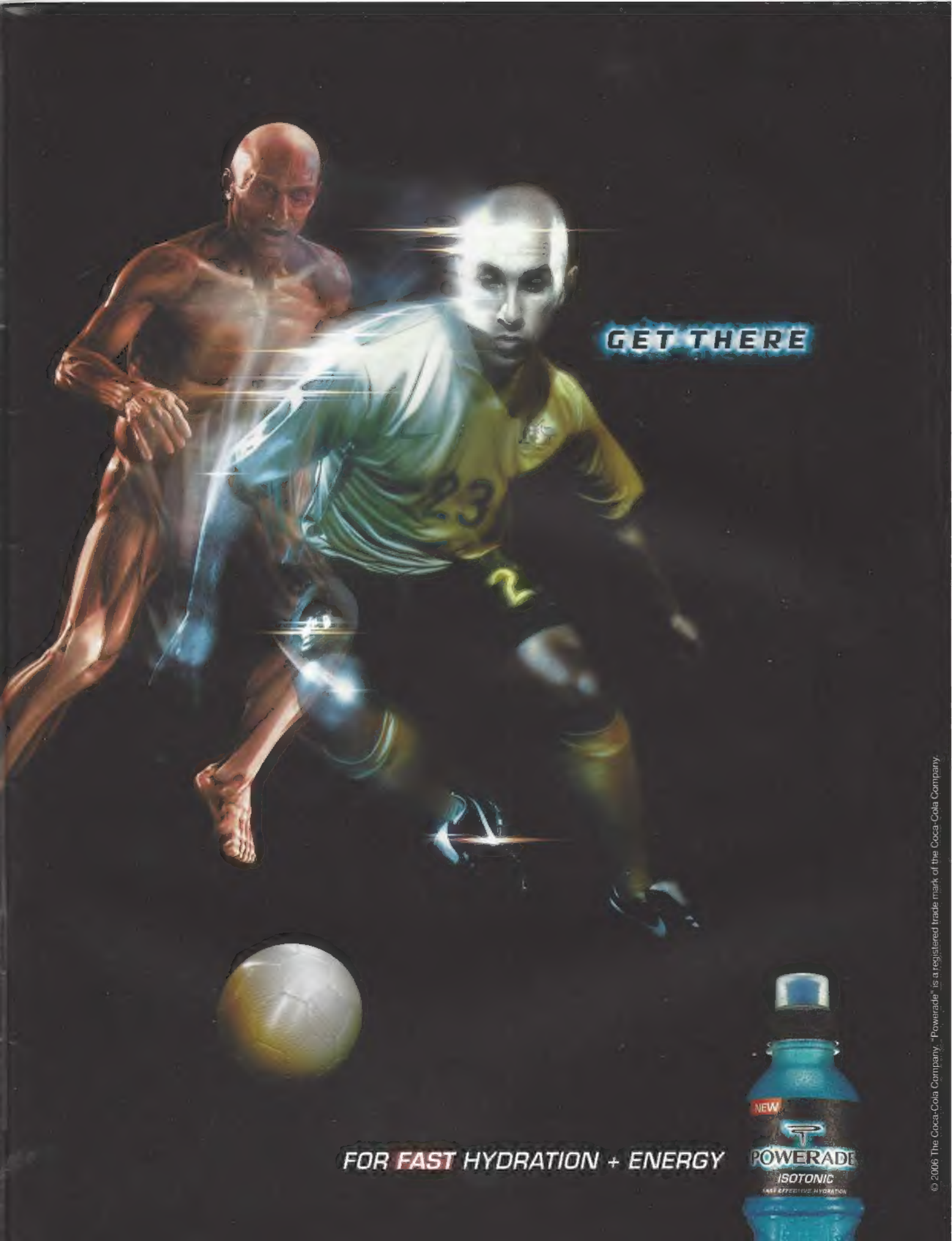


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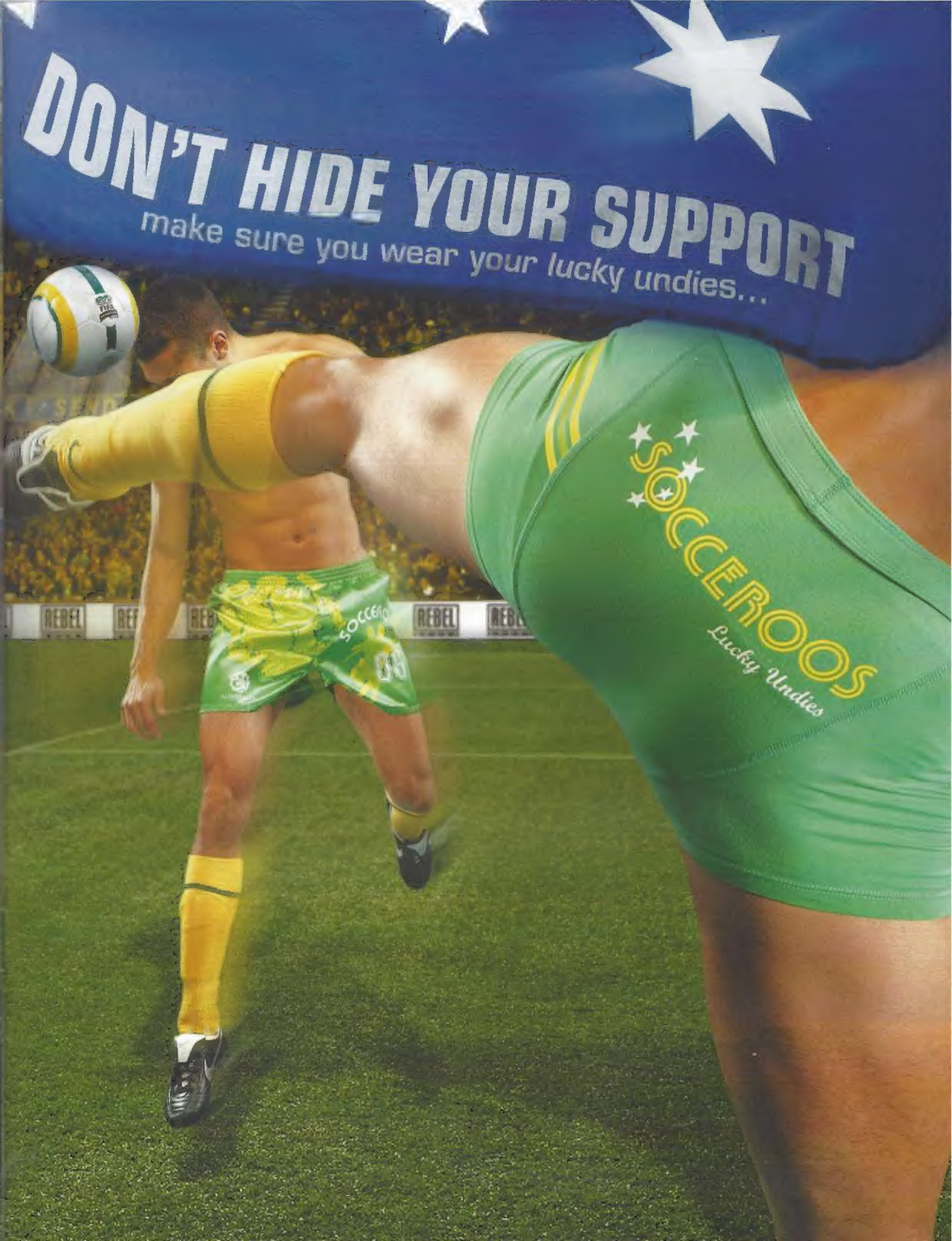
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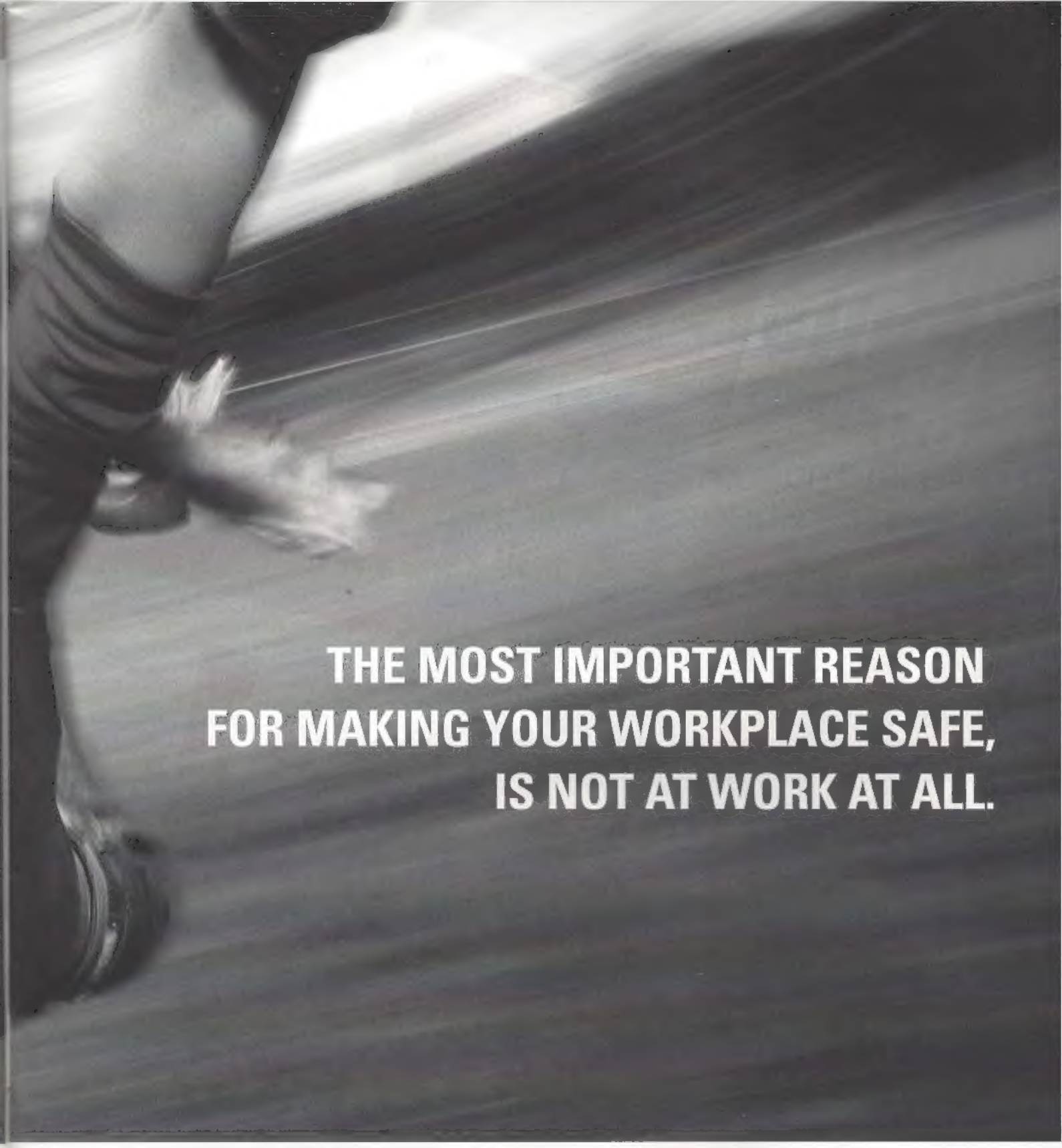


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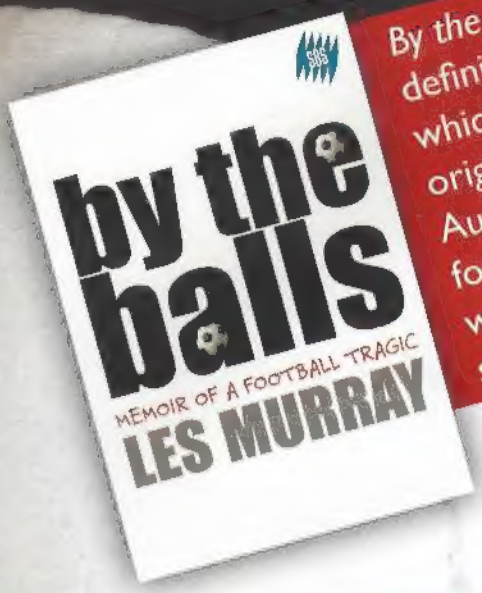


By the Balls is Les Murray's definitive autobiography which details his humble origins as a migrant to Australia and documents football's rise in popularity within the Australian sporting culture.

This World Cup special edition continues the mission of the late, great Johnny Warren. Johnny 'told us so'. And he was right.

# go nuts!

This sympathetic portrait of the Dutch super coach, Guus Hiddink, is written by fellow compatriot, Maarten Meijer. *Guus Hiddink: Going Dutch* is a fascinating and intimate account of the Dutch Master.

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WELCOME

# FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

On behalf of Chairman Frank Lowy and the Board of Football Federation Australia, I would like to welcome you to this Powerade Cup match against European Champions Greece.

Tonight's match is a very special occasion for both teams at what is one of the world's great sporting venues.

For Australia it is not only the first match at home since that memorable night in Sydney last November, but also the first match as part of the World Cup campaign. This match will prove a valuable chance for the players to show why they should appear on the teamsheet come June 12 against Japan in Kaiserslautern.

For the Greek team it will be an important chance to prepare for their upcoming campaign to defend their European Championship title they won in such memorable circumstances two years ago. Tonight will also be a special occasion for the many Greek-Australians living in both Melbourne, other parts of the country, and whom have been great supporters of the game for many years.

It is of course 32 years since Australia appeared in the FIFA World Cup and tonight affords the Australian public a chance to farewell the team before they depart for Germany and represent their country on the greatest stage of all.

There has been many exciting developments in the last few years particularly the Hyundai A-League and the move to the Asian Football Confederation. Qualification for Germany has of course been the crowning glory for the national team but there is plenty more to look forward to for supporters of the Qantas Socceroos. Later this year Australia will host three Asian Cup qualifiers and I encourage all football fans to support the national team in their endeavours to reach next year's tournament finals.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the valuable support of the Victorian Government and to all of our partners: Qantas, Nike, Hyundai, Powerade, Telstra, National Australia Bank, Westfield, Australian Sports Commission and SBS.

**John O'Neill**
Chief Executive Officer
*Football Federation Australia*

# HELLENIC FOOTBALL FEDERATION

The presence of the Greek National football team in Australia is an extremely important occasion for the Hellenic Football Federation, the Greek National players, the training team and for our fans everywhere.

We find ourselves in a continent so far away from our country, abundant, however, with the energy and vibrant spirit of Greece.

We come here as European Champions to meet with the Greek community of Australia, with utmost respect for their achievements, deeply emotional for their eternal devotion to the homeland. We come here with joy, for we were able to offer to all Greeks of the diaspora the winning spirit and brilliant achievement of UEFA EURO 2004.

At the same time, we meet with a friendly football federation, Football Federation Australia, saluting their progress over the years and their qualification in the final tournament of FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany, while wishing them every success this coming June.

This journey gives to each of us the best opportunity to remember the authentic Greece, the one living and excelling in every corner of the world.

We think of you always, we thank you for your invaluable support in Portugal, as we always keep you in our hearts.

You may rest assured that we will do everything in our power in order to defend our title in the UEFA EURO 2008 and make all Greeks proud again.

**Vasilis Gagatsis**
President
*Hellenic Football Federation*

WELCOME

# PREMIER OF VICTORIA

Welcome to Melbourne for this exciting match between Australia and Greece.

The Victorian Government is proud to support this wonderful opportunity for football fans to see their team in action before the FIFA World Cup.

Victorians are renowned for creating a buzz at sporting events and with such a large Greek community here in Melbourne, the match is sure to attract a vibrant crowd with plenty of support for both teams.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is the perfect venue for the match. The recent renovation has strengthened its reputation as one of the world's great sporting stadiums, with magnificent facilities that complement an electric atmosphere.

As well as being the 'event capital of Australia', Victoria offers world-class dining and entertainment, fantastic shopping and breathtaking scenery. Just a short trip from Melbourne you will find some spectacular sights such as the Great Ocean Road, Phillip Island's penguins and the Yarra Valley wine region.

I wish all visitors, competitors and officials an enjoyable and memorable match and I look forward to welcoming you back on your next visit to Victoria.

**STEVE BRACKS, MP**
Premier of Victoria

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# the Socceroos

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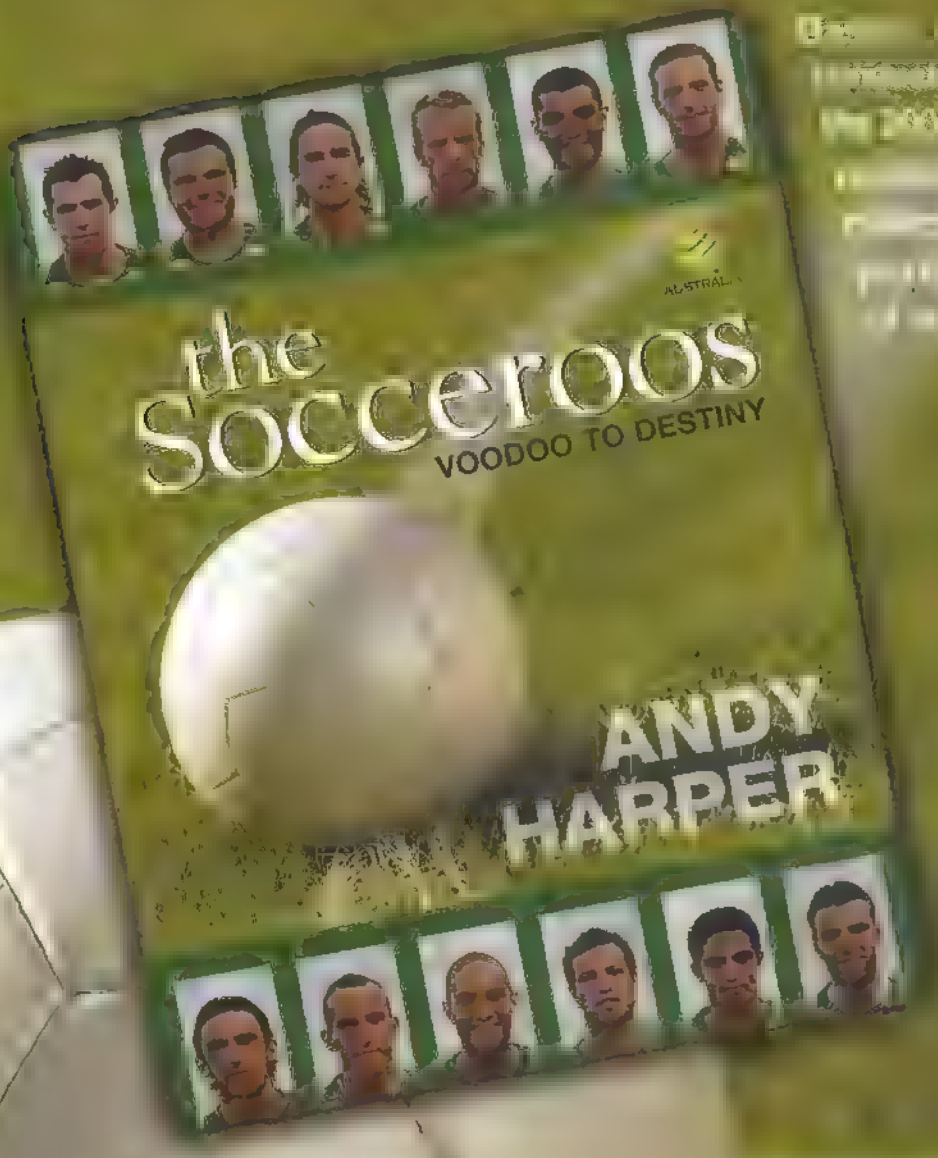


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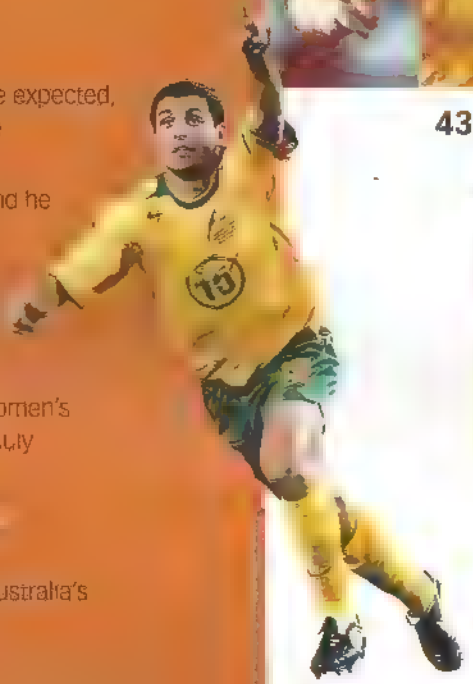

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# Playing for keeps

Forget friendly, tonight's game is between a young football nation set to test their mettle at the FIFA World Cup and the current European champions out to prove they're still worthy of the title.

**By Tom Smithies**

The FIFA World Cup starts two weeks tomorrow. Make no mistake Australia's build-up begins in earnest tonight. Football Federation Australia (FFA) welcomes Greece to the MCG for a star-studded, sell-out international game, but don't be fooled into thinking this is just another friendly. There are places in the FIFA World Cup team to secure, tactics to fine tune and statements to make, both individually and as a team.

Although it seems like yesterday that John Aloisi scored the most vital penalty in Australian football history, in the six months since, the team has not played competitively together, and has only met as a group for three days in February. Tonight the FIFA World Cup planning that has taken up every waking moment in the increasingly frantic corridors of the FFA switches to the pitch. Amidst all the previews, predictions and profiles, it will be a relief for the players to don the green and gold for real.

But first we should applaud the Qantas Socceroos' opposition tonight, the 2004 UEFA European Championship winners. Greece shocked the football world two years ago when they defeated the likes of Portugal (twice), the Czech Republic and champions France on the way to a title win that was as unexpected as it was almost impossible to believe.

Greece's German coach, Otto Rehhagel, showed what was possible by bringing fresh thinking and tactical discipline to a side long on hard-running and commitment. Could there be a moral in there somewhere for Australia?

Only the FIFA World Cup can give us the answer to that question, but in the meantime, Greece offers a highly useful benchmark against which to test Australia's newfound sophistication and awareness. Rehhagel has promised to bring as full-strength a side as possible, adding to the excitement generated by tonight's fixture.

For Australia, the game is about the stars of today, including some in the squad who want the chance to grab themselves a place in the starting lineup against Japan on June 10, in Australia's first FIFA World Cup match in more than 30 years.

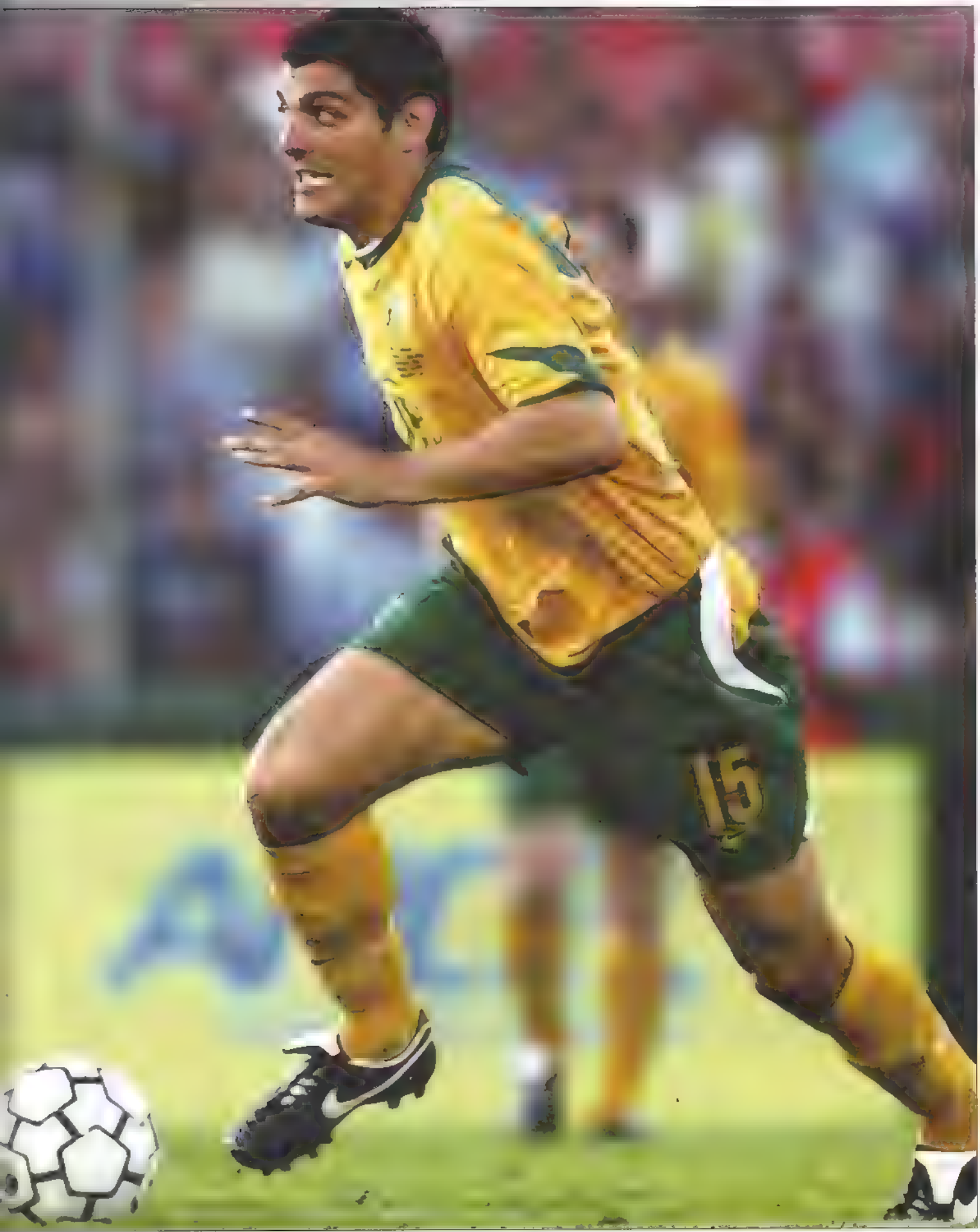
Coach Guus Hiddink has consistently said that no player's place is secure. Hiddink's loyalty is to the next result, and even those who excelled in the glorious playoff win over Uruguay have to keep justifying their places in the team.

Assistant coach Graham Arnold insists there is still all to play for, which is why the players will take tonight's game very seriously.

"It won't be treated too much as a farewell game," Arnold says. "The players know we haven't had a game since Uruguay [in November last year] and they will be out to impress Guus Hiddink. The first game against Japan is little more than a couple of weeks away and no doubt they'll all want to be in the starting lineup for that.

"I'm sure Guus won't look on this as a farewell game ... otherwise it suggests we're just happy to go to the World Cup. This is all about our preparation, we have three games before we hit Japan, so this won't be a kick around in any sense."

**Qantas Socceroos star John Aloisi will be taking tonight's game as seriously as the qualifier against Uruguay.**



Greece's Georgios Karagounis duels with Ukraine's Oleg Guslev in Greece's ill-fated FIFA World Cup qualifying round.

"It's a chance to get instructions across to the players in terms of their jobs, to iron out any problems we might have. The style of football that we play is different to what the players are used to at their clubs. In Italy for instance, Marco Bresciano and Vinnie Grella play a different way in England they play a different way so this is a chance to refresh their memories of what we did against Uruguay and Jamaica.

"It's been six months since they've played a game with each other so it's going to be about getting some cohesion back."

All of which will by no means be easy against the Greeks who have much to prove after the crushing disappointment of falling short in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers. The fact that Rehnagel's team went out was a sobering reality check for a coach who is highly regarded around the world. Rehnagel has now set his sights on Euro 2008 and aims to overhaul his team with a promising crop of youngsters – so tonight could offer an early chance to pick out some stars of tomorrow.

Among them could well be Georgios Samaras a gangly young forward who joined Manchester City in January for $15 million and already has five goals in 16 appearances for the English club not to ment on two goals in two games for Greece.

Also looking to cause Australia pain at the back will be Angelos Charisteas and he really does have an international track record. Charisteas scored the winner against France at Euro 2004 and also in the final against Portugal. Liddink should know plenty about the 26-year old as he plays for Dutch side Ajax.

"It's been six months since they've played a game with each other, so it's going to be about getting some cohesion back."
- Graham Arnold

The Qantas Socceroos team that took to the field against Uruguay in November last year.

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Qantas Socceroos captain Mark Viduka in action against Uruguay last November

At the weighty end of the experience scale is Theodoros Zagorakis, veteran of 115 internationals and Greece's captain. Known to many fans as Theo since his time at Leicester City, Zagorakis was named player of the tournament at the last European Championship and will do battle with Jason Culina and Vince Grella at the heart of midfield.

Arnold says that Australia can expect a tough battle from their visitors.

"Greece will set the tone - they're hurting because they didn't make the FIFA World Cup, despite being European champions, and they'll have very vocal support and want to win the game," he says.

"The Greeks were part of an emotional European Championship – pretty much everyone outside Greece was jumping on their backs because they were underdogs and they achieved a miracle in Portugal. Their coach is very successful in his own right, and will be demanding a successful performance from his team to show the world that, even though they didn't make the World Cup, they deserve to be there."

Back in the Australian camp, all involved with the running of the team know that the atmosphere generated by the passion of an MCG full house will act as a spur to the players – not only to produce a memorable performance, but as a stirring call-to-arms ahead of the FIFA World Cup campaign.

For FFA chief executive John O'Neill, still glowing from the atmosphere at the Uruguay playoff in November, it's proof of what fervent backing can do for the team.

"The match against Greece is being treated as the beginning of our FIFA World Cup campaign," says O'Neill. "It's important that the team receives a terrific send off as they leave for Europe and our first World Cup in 32 years. The atmosphere generated in Sydney in November was enormous and we're hoping that the same will occur in Melbourne.

"There should be a great mix of colour in the crowd. As Tim Cahill said recently, it could be the first time some Greek-born Australians wear the colours of both countries at one time. Getting the opportunity to play the European champions will give us a good benchmark to see where we are currently at before we hit the big time in Germany."

Even Arnold will allow himself to enjoy the moment before the team departs for Europe. "It's going to be a fantastic atmosphere. Everyone associated with the Uruguay game in Sydney says it was the best event they'd been to and I'm sure Melbourne will be similar – they always put on a great sporting event.

"Our guys haven't played in Melbourne for a while, and haven't played at the MCG since the game against Uruguay four years ago, so I'm pretty sure they'll want to put on a performance, and show Guus and all of us what they can do." ✖

*Tom Smithies covers football for the* Daily Telegraph *in Sydney*

## GETTING READY

The Qantas Socceroos' last fixture in Australia may have been in November last year, but the team has been busy preparing for both the FIFA World Cup and the Asian Cup qualifiers.

Their last competitive match was against Bahrain on February 22, when the team beat the home side 3-1. The return leg of this match will take place in November (see page 54).

But the many international players in the Qantas Socceroos lineup have been busy indeed. Captain Mark Viduka has been at the forefront of English Premiership side Middlesbrough's UEFA Cup campaign. Viduka has scored consistently throughout the competition, leading the team into the final.

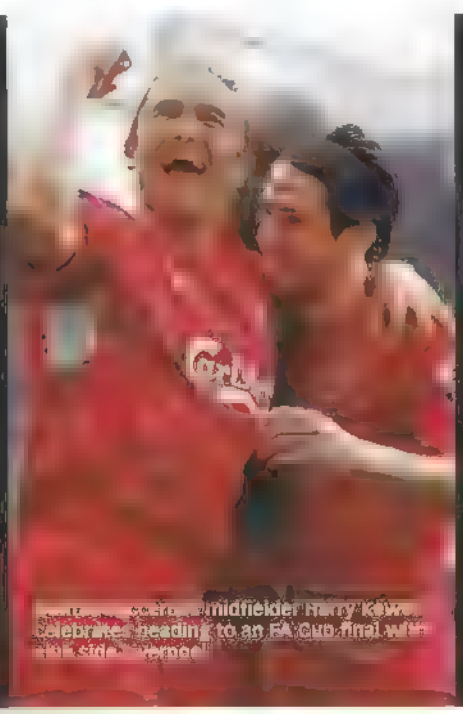
Similarly, Harry Kewell has been nothing less than explosive for Liverpool, his efforts taking them to an FA Cup final.

And coach Guus Hiddink led his Dutch side PSV Eindhoven to another league title.

But in the lead-up to the FIFA World Cup, the team has two more friendlies to prepare them for the big event.

The first takes place on June 1 against the Netherlands in Rotterdam. While the Dutch team is a fellow FIFA World Cup competitor, if the teams do meet in the competition it can only be in a semi-final or the Final itself. The Dutch are among the favourites, currently ranked third in the world.

The second friendly happens against Liechtenstein in the city of Ulm in Germany on June 7. While the tiny European nation is hardly a football superpower (they are currently ranked 122 in the world), they are no slouches – they held a Scolari-led Portugal to a 2-2 draw in October 2004.



Liverpool midfielder Harry Kewell celebrates heading to an FA Cup final with his side's supporters

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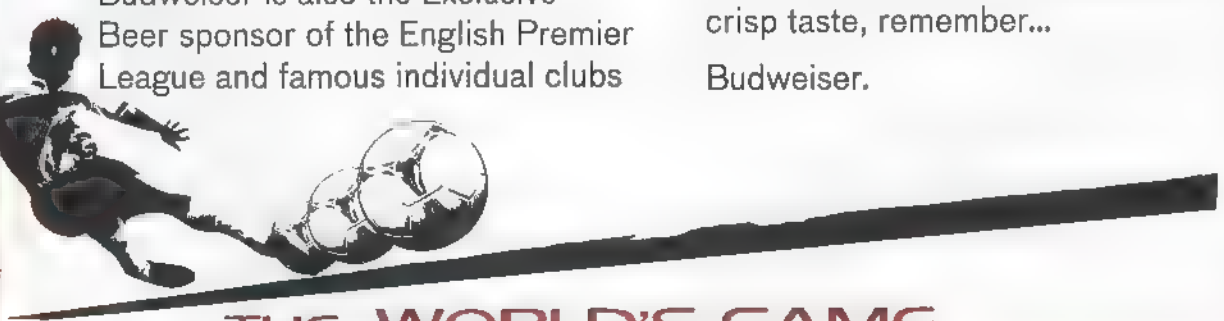

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# FROM MELBOURNE TO GERMANY

The nation is gearing up for some big moments in Australian football.

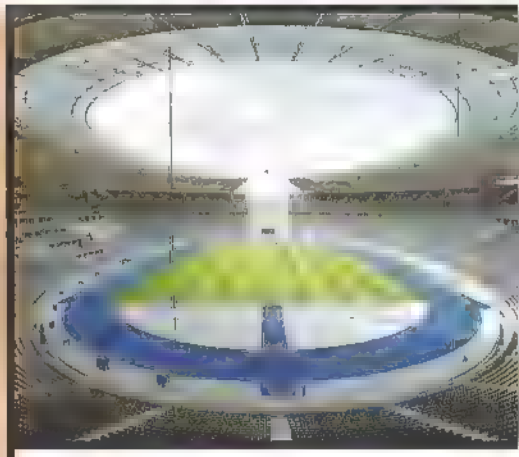
## FOOTBALL FAMILY PRIORITY SOCCEROO MATCH TICKETS

Priority access to the best tickets to Football Federation Australia-controlled matches in Australia will continue to be offered exclusively to registered members of the Football Family for the forthcoming Qantas Socceroos' Asian Cup Qualifiers, starting with Australia's August 16 match against Kuwait. Football Family members can expect an offer for that game during the FIFA World Cup. For more information, to update your Football Family membership or to register, visit *www.MyFootball.com.au*

## GET THERE WITH POWERADE: WIN A TRIP TO GERMANY!

Socceroos partner Powerade is celebrating the launch of the new Powerade Seismic Socceroo Strike flavour by taking two lucky fans to the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. With the help of Radio Nova 100 in Melbourne, Powerade will today be distributing 65,000 gold bandanas. At half-time one proud bandana wearer will be chosen at random to win a trip for two to the 2006 FIFA World Cup Final. So make sure you're donning your gold bandana and you and a friend could be travelling to Germany with the prize including return...

$27,450. Get there with Powerade and go the Socceroos.



Olympic Stadium, Berlin

Arena Aufschalke, Gelsenkirchen

## FOOTBALL FAMILY COIN TOSS

Not many will ever have the chance to wear the green and gold in front of 100,000 spectators but eight year old **Michael Damjanovic** will be in the centre circle tonight alongside the two teams just moments prior to the Australia v Greece clash. Football Federation Australia, with the support of the *Herald-Sun*, created the opportunity for one lucky member of the Football Family to toss the coin with the two captains before Australia and Greece battle it out at the MCG. Michael, who plays for Heidelberg United under 9s was the lucky name drawn for this unique experience. Entry for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was available to members of the Football Family only.

# SUITED UP

It's been a long time since the Socceroos competed at a FIFA World Cup, but this year will see the return of Australia as a football powerhouse. Fashion label Ted Baker was asked by the FFA to become the official formalwear partner of the Qantas Socceroos. As the official formal wear partner, Ted Baker will be suiting and booting the team for its first appearance in a FIFA World Cup for more than 30 years. Not content with the norm, i.e. dressing England's pampered superstars, Ted Baker continues to be different and has chosen to align itself with its newest friends in the southern hemisphere.

Simon Katan, director of Ted Baker in Australia says the new garb will make the Qantas Socceroos the "best-dressed team at the FIFA World Cup."

"It is a Ted Baker Endurance suit which is the original travel suit – often imitated, never bettered," he says. "Made from a high micron wool material with tightly twisted fibres resulting in a natural elasticity keeping the Socceroos comfortable in their travels between matches.

And whatever the result at the FIFA World Cup, Australia can be happy in the knowledge that it will be the tournament's best-dressed team.

## WANT TO BE A REFEREE?

A new referees national training program is being rolled out by Football Federation Australia from January 1 this year. The new training program covers referees, referee inspectors, and referee instructors (coaches) and is registered under the Australian Sports Commission's National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS).

This is the first time that a national training program has been implemented in Australia and is important to ensure football match officials are trained to the highest standard. The new national training could assist you to become the next Mark Shield on the world stage.

"The referees national training development program is a comprehensive development scheme that will undoubtedly play a significant role in helping to develop the next generation of referees," says Australia's FIFA World Cup-bound referee Mark Shield. "I have no doubt the scheme will be of great assistance to referees, inspectors and instructors across all levels of the game."

The scheme, which applies to new referees, commences at Level 5 (introductory) with Level 1 for referees at the top level. For referee inspectors there are three levels and for referee [illegible]

Current active officials receive their initial FFA Certificate on the recommendation of their State Body with certificates valid for up to four years. Active officials who wish to renew their certificate will be required to provide evidence of their activities during this period.

Certificates will be accompanied by a Log Book in which officials maintain a record of their activities. The number of hours required are moderate, ranging from 24 to 96 hours over four years.

Referees can obtain additional resources such as DVD's as they move through the scheme's different levels.

For more information see the FFA website *www.footballaustralia.com.au*

Budding referees, referee inspectors and referee inspectors should contact their local State Federation.

# ANOTHER AUSSIE IN GERMANY

It takes talent to make it to the FIFA World Cup – and not just as a player. For football referees, the battle for selection at the world's largest football contest is just as tough.

Just as Australia will have their place on the world stage this year, so will an Australian referee by the name of Mark Shield. Completing a trio of Australian match officials will be assistant referees Nathan Gibson and Ben Wilson.

But unlike the Qantas Socceroos, Shield was on the pitch in Korea/Japan 2002. He was the man in the middle for the Tunisia v Belgium clash back then, and was also fourth official for several games including the quarter-final between Germany and the USA.

Despite it being his second FIFA World Cup, Shield is still thrilled about making the cut for Germany.

"It was tremendous news," says the 33-year-old Shield, now an undisputed veteran of Australian football. Funnily enough, when Shield was on the pitch back in 2002, he was the youngest referee to officiate at a FIFA World Cup, and just the fifth Australian to take the pitch there.

Like any star-struck young player, Shield was just as excited to meet and work with some of the greats of the game, among them the now-retired Pier Luigi Collina. Shield describes Collina as "the best who ever walked the planet".

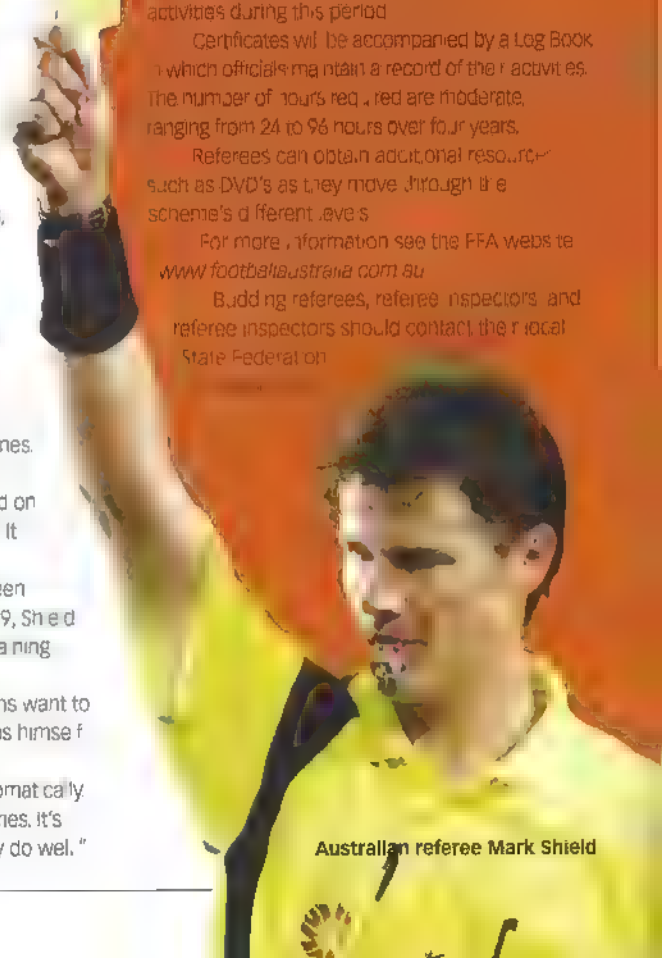
To get to Germany wasn't simply a matter of Shield resting on his laurels, as with the 2002 FIFA World Cup, the selection process was gruelling.

"They started a candidates list about 18 months ago," Shield explains. "There were fitness tests and medical tests, and then we were appointed to FIFA tournaments in 2005. We were critiqued and researched for those games. And then we went back to Frankfurt in March this year for more testing. Based on all that they came up with the final list. It was pretty intensive."

It doesn't end there, either. Between selection and the first kick-off on June 9, Shield sticks to a solid, seven-days-a-week training regime laid down by FIFA.

But the question most football fans want to know the answer to is how Shield stops himself from barracking for Australia.

"It's not about that," he says diplomatically. "I won't be involved in any of their games. It's fantastic that they're there. I hope they do well."



Australian referee Mark Shield

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# Local HERO

Football has taken Marco Bresciano from Carlton to Italy's Serie A and now to the FIFA World Cup, but few things excite him more than playing in his hometown.

**By Dan Hirst**

If you're in a jam, Marco Bresciano is the man for the job. This season his magical feet have saved not one, but two teams from the footballing wilderness.

Without his scoring streak at the business end of the Italian football season, Serie A side Parma would have faced a humiliating relegation from the top flight.

And, more importantly for Australia, it was his left foot strike that drew the Qantas Socceroos level with Uruguay in Sydney and ultimately broke a 32-year FIFA World Cup curse.

But Bresciano is not satisfied yet.

"I've done nothing, the World Cup is the main event," he says, as if to elaborate on the ubiquitous billboards telling us he is 'not just happy to be there'.

"The World Cup is the biggest thing that has ever happened to me and to Australian football, and I'm focused on that – not on looking back."

"Since I was a kid I've dreamt of playing in a World Cup, even though I never thought it could come true for a kid from suburban Melbourne."

Tonight is the start of Bresciano's dream, with the first-choice Qantas Socceroos assembled for their first kickoff in the lead up to Germany. And for the midfielder who cut his teeth in the Bulleen under 8 team, the MCG is one place he is happy to be.

"To be on the other side of the world in Italy and hear that there's a sell-out in your hometown, it's a special feeling. It's always great to play in Australia, but to play in Melbourne is amazing," he says.

"All my friends and family will be in the crowd. If I could have got enough tickets, I reckon I could have filled the place myself, everyone is that excited about it."

For all his popularity, Marco Bresciano has only recently been mentioned alongside Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka as the Qantas Socceroos' household names. But if his rich run of form continues into the FIFA World Cup, the whole of Australia will soon know what football fans have known for years. Marco Bresciano is a genuine star.

"He's so important to us for two reasons," says Qantas Socceroos assistant coach Graham Arnold. "Firstly, he's a big-match player who has a habit of scoring massive goals at the crucial time. Secondly, his set pieces are up with the best of them. There are only two guys I know who can make the ball do it like that, and the other one is David Beckham. He's really that good."

**Bresciano in action against Uruguay in the FIFA World Cup qualifier.**

But it's not just from the spot that Bresciano is dangerous. The famous goal against Uruguay that sent the nation into euphoria typifies his quick thinking and skill with a moving ball.

"The move started as an old Leeds United combination between Harry (Kewell) and (Mark) Viduka. Then Harry did what he calls his 'best miss-kick ever'," Arnold chuckles. "Bresh was first to read the situation, it's just instinct for him. He shook off his marker and because he can hit it so well with both feet, he rammed it home with his left."

In coach Guus Hiddink's team these attacking instincts are all important. The Dutch style he has brought to the Qantas Socceroos involves relentless attack and requires a team with a wealth of scoring options.

"We now have an attacking midfield that many World Cup teams would be jealous of. Having Bresh, (Tim) Cahill and (Jason) Culina means we have players who can run out of midfield and give us an unexpected potency."

And Bresciano is clearly relishing Hiddink's aggressive game plan.

"He told me to get in between the defenders and start passing and shooting," Bresciano says. "I like [this style of play], I think everyone does, it's an attacking game, and a free-flowing game."

You can't talk about Bresciano without giving kudos to his best mate Vince Grella, the man who provides the defensive cover that allows his Qantas Socceroo teammates to blaze forward. Grella and Bresciano have known each other since under-12s, when they were both picked for the same Melbourne district side. And they have since followed each other around the world, from Carlton to Empoli and now to Parma.

"They're more like brothers than friends, they're jointed at the hip," observes Graham Arnold. And their 15 years of football together has given them a telepathic understanding in the Australian midfield.

"We know each other's games inside out," says Bresciano. "He knows where I'm going to make a run and I know the kind of defensive cover he can give me. I reckon we could play together with our eyes closed."

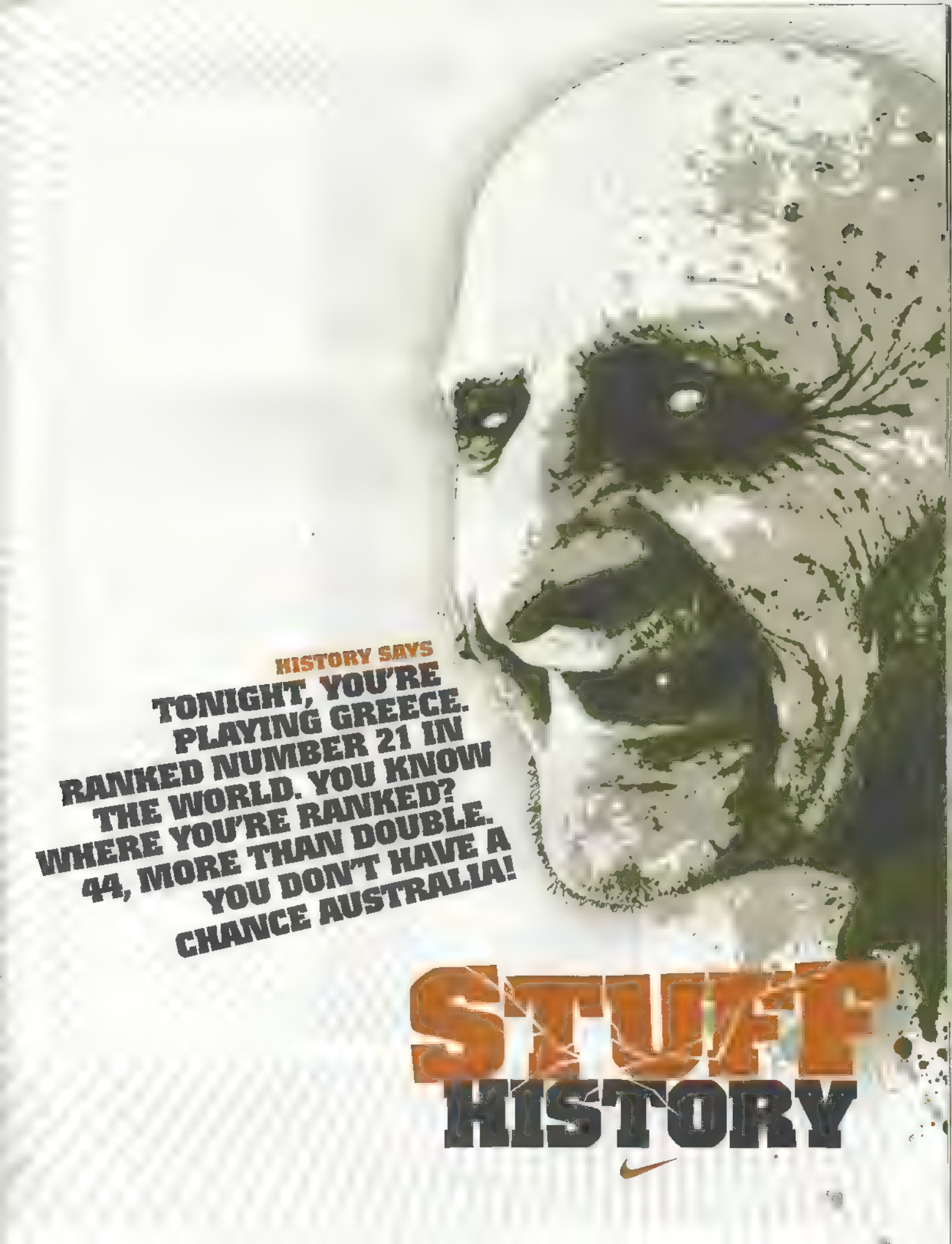
While Grella covered his back at Parma Bresciano went on a rampage, scoring six goals in eight matches in recent months to pull the proud Parma side out of the relegation zone.

Bresciano hints that his great form could just be a preview of things to come at the FIFA World Cup.

"I'm fully fit for the first time in a while and that's made a huge difference, but it's also psychological. Because we know we've got the World Cup coming up Vince and I are putting in extra. Some of the other guys are winding down – we're gearing up," Bresciano pauses.

"I'm just itching for the World Cup to start." ✖

> **"There are only two guys I know who can make the ball dip like [Bresciano], and the other one is David Beckham."**
> – Graham Arnold


HISTORY SAYS
TONIGHT, YOU'RE PLAYING GREECE. RANKED NUMBER 21 IN THE WORLD. YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE RANKED? 44, MORE THAN DOUBLE. YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AUSTRALIA!
STUFF HISTORY

# PLAYER PROFILES

# AUSTRALIA

## John ALOISI

Born F
Club Alavi
Caps 39 Goals

Aloisi etched his name in Australian sporting history by striking the winning penalty in the shoot-out against Uruguay that sent the Qantas Socceroos to the FIFA World Cup. Spent most of his career at international level playing second fiddle to Mark Viduka, but showed, with a slew of goals in the Confederations Cup last year, that he can do the job when given the chance. Has played at the highest level in England, Spain and Italy.

Striker

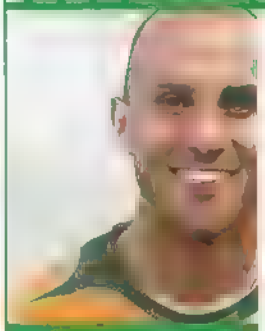
## Michael BEAUCHAMP

Defender

Tall, mobile centre-back who made an impressive debut in national team colours in the Australian side that despatched Bahrain 3-1 in the opening Asian Cup qualifier in February. Strong, good in the air and quick to recover, Beauchamp was one of the best-performing defenders during the Hyundai A-League season when the Mariners made it all the way to the Grand Final. Has been linked with German Bundesliga side Nuremburg.

Born March
Club Central Coast Mariners
Caps 1 Goals 0

## Marco BRESCIANO



Born February
Club Parma, Italy
Caps 22 Goals

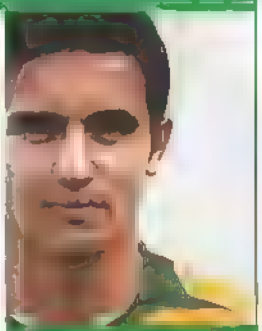
The "other" hero of the game against Uruguay in Sydney, as it was Bresciano's first-half strike that gave Australia the priceless 1-0 lead and eventually took the game into extra time and penalties. An attacking midfielder of considerable class, Brescianno has played in Italy's Serie A for several seasons, in recent times at Parma with teammate Grella. Could be on the move to a bigger club sooner rather than later.

Midfielder

## Tim CAHILL

Midfielder

All-action Everton midfielder who is now in a race against the clock to be fit to take his place in the World Cup squad after injuring knee ligaments playing for Everton in its Premier League clash with Birmingham in late April. Doctors said at the time that it would take him six weeks to recover, which could see him return just in time for the start of Australia's FIFA World Cup campaign. A key member of the squad, Cahill's pace, commitment and combative style, as well as his ability to score vital goals, would be sadly missed.



Born D
Club Everton
Caps 14 Goals 8

## Scott CHIPPERFIELD

Born December
Club FC Basel
Caps 44 Goals 11

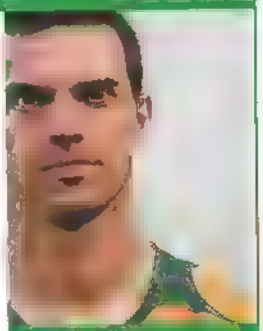
The one-time Wollongong bus driver is now an integral part of the Qantas Socceroos first 11, operating either as a left back or as a left-midfielder. Made his name at old NSL side Wollongong (where he worked part-time at a transport company) and moved to Europe where he joined the Swiss champions. Quick, brave, tough and skilful, Chipperfield used to be best known for scoring goals, but in the latter part of his career has been turned into a defender.

Midfielder

## Ante COVIC

Goalkeeper

New boy on the goalkeeping scene the tall and powerful Covic has burst into the Australian squad in the past nine months, making a big impression on coach Guus Hiddink after being called into the Dutchman's first training camp with the team. Began life as an outfield player, switching to a role between the posts in his late teenage years. Covic, who plays his club football in Sweden, made his Qantas Socceroos debut in February in the Asian Cup tie against Bahrain.

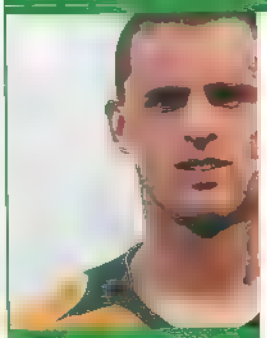


**Born** August 30, 1975
**Club** Hammarby, Sweden
**Caps** 1 **Goals** 0

## Jason CULINA

Midfielder

Skilful midfielder whose technical ability impressed Guus Hiddink enough for the Dutch master coach to sign him for PSV after Culina had established himself as a midfielder in the Dutch Eredivisie with Twente Enschede. Originally went to the Netherlands as a teenager to play for Ajax, but lack of opportunity prompted his move to Enschede. Has been a regular in the national first 11 under Hiddink.



**Born**
**Club** PSV Eindhoven, Netherlands
**Caps** 11 **Goals**

## Brett EMERTON

Midfielder

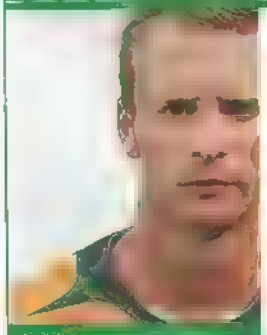
Energetic and athletic Blackburn Rovers winger who can also play at full-back. In fact, it was as a defender at Dutch club Feyenoord that he made his name when he first went to Europe. Established himself at NSL club Sydney Olympic and captained his country at the Sydney Olympic Games. His move to Rovers cemented his place in the national team, where his hard running, pace and strength in wide areas makes him a dangerous and difficult opponent.

**Born**
**Club**
**Caps** **Goals**

## Vince GRELLA

Midfielder

A key player in the Qantas Socceroos' midfield, Grella acts as both a shield for the defence and a springboard to prompt the attack. Grella grew up in Dandenong and came through the AIS program, then played at Carlton in the NSL with his great friend Marco Bresciano before the pair moved to Italian second division club Empoli and won promotion to the Serie A. When Bresciano moved to Parma Grella soon followed. Tough but skilful, Grella is a good passer of the ball although he rarely scores goals.



**Born**
**Club** Parma, Italy
**Caps** 16 **Goals**

## Zeljko KALAC

Goalkeeper

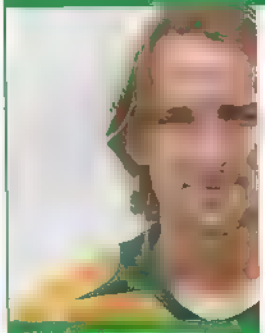
Not many Australians have played in Italy's prestigious Serie A, and none have been at a club as big as AC Milan, where Kalac is the backup for the man who will be in goal for Brazil, Dida, when Australia play the world champions in Munich next month. While Kalac spends most of his time at the San Siro on the bench, he is a highly competent keeper who has carved out a lengthy and successful career for himself. Has played in Australia, England, the Netherlands and Italy.

**Born**
**Club** Milan, Italy
**Caps** **Goals**

## Joshua KENNEDY

Midfielder

Beanpole striker who began his career at Carlton in the old NSL but left Australia as a teenager to play in Germany. Initially at Wolfsburg, he moved to Dynamo Dresden in the German second division where he performed strongly enough this season to attract the interest of Bundesliga clubs. Signed a deal in January to move to Nuremburg next season. Part of the Australian squad that made the FIFA Under-17 World Championship final in 1999, losing on penalties to Brazil.



**Born**
**Club** Dynamo
**Caps** 0 **Goals**

# Australia

AUSTRALIA

## Squad list

| NO. | NAME | POSITION | GOALS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mark **SCHWARZER** | Goalkeeper | |
| 2 | Lucas **NEILL** | Defender | |
| 3 | Craig **MOORE** | Defender | |
| 4 | Tim **CAHILL** | Midfielder | |
| 5 | Jason **CULINA** | Midfielder | |
| 6 | Tony **POPOVIC** | Defender | |
| 7 | Brett **EMERTON** | Midfielder | |
| 8 | Josip **SKOKO** | Midfielder | |
| 9 | Mark **VIDUKA** | Striker | |
| 10 | Harry **KEWELL** | Midfielder/Striker | |
| 11 | Stan **LAZARIDIS** | Defender/Midfielder | |
| 12 | Ante **COVIC** | Goalkeeper | |
| 13 | Vince **GRELLA** | Midfielder/Defender | |
| 14 | Scott **CHIPPERFIELD** | Midfielder | |
| 15 | John **ALOISI** | Striker | |
| 16 | Michael **BEAUCHAMP** | Defender | |
| 17 | Archie **THOMPSON** | Striker | |
| 18 | Zeljko **KALAC** | Goalkeeper | |
| 19 | Joshua **KENNEDY** | Striker | |
| 20 | Luke **WILKSHIRE** | Midfielder | |
| 21 | Mile **STERJOVSKI** | Midfielder/Striker | |
| 22 | Mark **MILLIGAN** | Defender | |
| 23 | Marco **BRESCIANO** | Midfielder | |

**SCORE**

**HALF-TIME**

**FULL-TIME**

**HEAD OF DELEGATION** Philip Wolanski
**HEAD COACH** Guus Hiddink
**TEAM MANAGER** Gary Moretti
**ASSISTANT COACH** Graham Arnold
**ASSISTANT COACH** Jonan Neeskens
**GOALKEEPER COACH** Tony Franken
**STRENGTH/CONDITIONER** Anthony Crea
**ANALYST/NATIONAL TECHNICAL MANAGER** Ron Smith
**DOCTOR** Andrew Jowett

**SENIOR PHYSIOTHERAPIST** Les Gelis
**PHYSIOTHERAPIST** Arno Phillips
**MASSEUR** Luke Attwell
**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Anter Isaac
**MEDIA MANAGER** Stuart Hodge
**MEDIA MANAGER** Pedro Salazar Hewitt
**TV UNIT** Lindsay McNeil
**EQUIPMENT MANAGER** Dom Rabsch
**SECURITY OFFICER** Jim Phillipps

Mark Viduka

# Greece

## Squad list

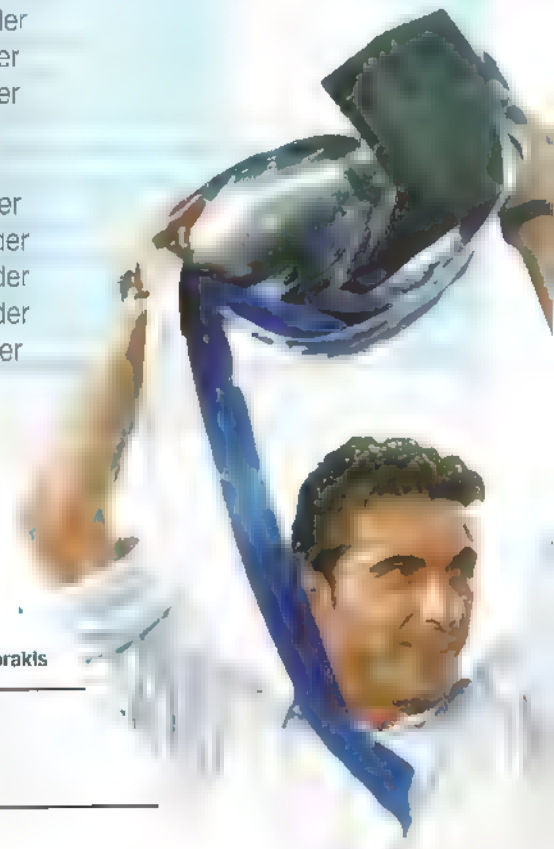
| NO. | NAME | POSITION | GOALS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Antonios **NIKOPOLIDIS** | Goalkeeper | |
| 2 | Georg'os **SEITARIDIS** | Defender | |
| 4 | Georgios **ALEXOPOULOS** | Defender | |
| 5 | Traianos **DELLAS** | Defender | |
| 6 | Ange os **BASINAS** | M df'e der | |
| 7 | Theodoros **ZAGORAKIS** | M dfieider | |
| 8 | Stylianos **GIANNKOPOYLOS** | Midfielder | |
| 9 | Angelos **CHARISTEAS** | Str'ker | |
| 10 | Geprg'os **KARAGOUNIS** | Midf'e.der | |
| 11 | Dimitrios **PAPADOPOULOS** | Striker | |
| 12 | Stefanos **KOTSOLIS** | Goa'keeper | |
| 13 | Michai **SIFAKIS** | Goalkeeper | |
| 14 | Panagiotis **FYSSAS** | Defender | |
| 15 | Zisis **VRYZAS** | Striker | |
| 16 | Pante is **KAFES** | Midfielder | |
| 17 | Theofanis **GEGAS** | Striker | |
| 18 | Ioann s **GOUMAS** | Defender | |
| 19 | Micha l **KAPSIS** | Defender | |
| 20 | .oannis **AMANATIDIS** | Midfielder | |
| 21 | Konstantinos **KATSOURANIS** | M dfieider | |
| 22 | Dimitrios **SALPIGIDIS** | Striker | |
| 23 | Vasilios **LAKIS** | Midfielder | |
| 24 | Loukas **VYNTRA** | Defender | |
| 25 | Sotir os **KYRGIAKOS** | Defender | |
| 26 | Evangelos **MANTZIOS** | Striker | |
| 27 | Georgios **SAMARAS** | Str ker | |
| 28 | Paraskevas **ANTZAS** | Defender | |
| 29 | Panagiotis **LAGOS** | M dfieider | |
| 30 | Tz olis **ALEXANDROS** | Midfielder | |
| 31 | F'lippos **DARLAS** | Midfielder | |
| 32 | Georg os **ANATOLAKIS** | Defender | |

**SCORE**

**HALF-TIME**

**FULL-TIME**

**HEAD COACH** Otto Rehhagel
**ASSISTANT COACH** Ioannis Topalidis



Theodoros Zagorakis

**TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS**

**REFEREE** Mike Riley (England) **ASSISTANT REFEREE** Matthew Cream (Australia)
**ASSISTANT REFEREE** Jim Ou ans (Australia) **FOURTH OFFICIAL** Matthew Breeze (Australia)

# PLAYER PROFILES

# GREECE

## Tziolis ALEXANDROS

German born m dfie der who did the opposite to teammate Ioannis Amanat dis by moving to Greece at age nine. Performs the hold ng role for his c ub and mode.s h s playing style on former Rea. Madrid m dfielder Fernando Redondo. A ta ented youngster

## Georgios ALEXOPOULOS

Has bu lt up a solid defensive partnersh p with Traianos Del as at AEK, but has been so far unable to make that count for Greece as Rehhage prefers both Antolakis and Kyrgiakos. Excellent positionally, but needs to make up for his lack of pace.

## Ioannis AMANATIDIS

Can operate in m dfield or attack, and s comfortable with the ba on either foot. Impressive dr bb er but must mprove h s fin sh ng. Born in Greece, but moved to Germany at age nine, and made his league debut for Stuttgart in 2002-3, f nishing as league runners-up Expected to become a key player for Greece in future seasons.

## Georgios ANTOLAKIS

Once touted as Greece's brightest young defensive prospect after joining Olympiakos in 1996, but suffered a major dip in form and d sappeared off the international radar Won his place in the nationa. team back last winter after six years in the wilderness. Has an astonish.ng record at club evel though, having won eight domestic titles – all with his current club.

## Paraskevas ANTZAS

Won four Greek t tles with Olympiakos before being frozen out and so d back to his hometown c ub Xanth . Has not et t d m nish h s international chances and has been a regular squad member for seven years, but missed the cut for the victorious Euro 2004 squad

## Angelov BASINAS

Wily central midfielder who has been a stalwart for club and country throughout an impressive 10-year career An nteiligent player who can unlock defences with his pierc ng through-balls. Also possesses a fiery temperament and relishes the midfield confrontations that decide key games. Won a league championship with Panathinaikos in 1995-6, his first season as a sen or professional, and capta ned the side to the domestic double in 2003-4

## Angelos CHARISTEAS

Wrote his name into Greek fo k ore by scoring the goa that beat Portuga n the final of Euro 2004. The goa s have dried up for the former German champion since then – he endured an eight month barren run for his country after the tournament Often plays as a one striker under Rehhage , a thank ess task, though one that has earned h m the admirat on of the people that matter – his coach and h s teammates.

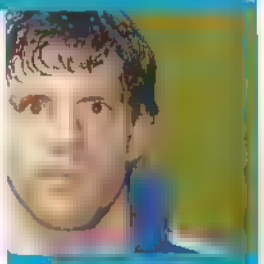
## Filippos DARLAS

Spirited left back who joined Panathinaikos at age 17 but looked set to miss out on the big time when he spent three years on loan to various lower league clubs. Took advantage of an injury crisis at Panathinaikos to show his coaches he was ready for top-flight football. A regular presence ever since, he made his international debut in a 1-1 draw with South Korea in January.

## Traianos DELLAS

Scored the extra-time goal that helped Greece to their first major final in Euro 2004, and emerged as one of the undisputed stars of the tournament. A brave defender whose aerial strength and exceptional anticipation make him a natural fit for the sweeper position – the lynchpin of Rehhagel's formation – and earned him a move to Italian giants Roma in 2002. Joined AEK Athens last year after missing eight months with a hernia injury.

## Panagiotis FYSSAS



A combative left-sided defender who is comfortable on the ball and has been an international regular since 1998. Has performed consistently at club level, appearing in the Champions League for Panathinaikos and Benfica, and helped current club Hearts qualify for the competition this year. Scored in the Portuguese Cup final when Benfica defeated rivals Porto, and collected a Euro 2004 winners medal on his then home ground, the Stadium of Light.

## Theofanis GEGAS

Lightning-quick striker with pace to burn and unerring accuracy in front of goal. He emerged from nowhere to become top goalscorer in Greece in 2004, scoring at will for minnows Kalithea, and then for Panathinaikos, who he joined midway through the season. Perfect for Greece's counter-attacking system, capable of bursting into life as soon as his team wins possession and scoring from anywhere with his fierce right foot.

## Stylianos GIANNKOPOYLOS

Energetic wide midfielder who combines a compact running style, accurate crossing and a thunderous shot to devastating effect on the right flank. A tireless worker who never shirks his defensive responsibilities and an accomplished free-kick taker, he won seven consecutive league titles with Olympiakos before joining England's Bolton Wanderers. Never gives defenders a moment's peace.

Born July 02, 1974
England
Caps Goals

## Ioannis GOUMAS

Pacy defender with great aerial ability. Has spent his entire career boyhood idols Panathinaikos and helped them to two league titles. Averages six goals a season – great for a centre-back – but is yet to get off the international mark. What prize a strike against Australia to celebrate turning 31 yesterday?

Born May
Greece
Caps 38 Goals 0

## Pantelis KAFES

Defensive midfielder who has won acclaim for his passing abilities and has become a regular in the national team, despite missing out to Katsouranis in the final reckoning for Euro 2004. Joined Olympiakos when former club PAOK failed to pay him three months' wages despite guiding them to a domestic cup triumph in 2001. Bizarrely wears the No.1 shirt for his club.

## Michail KAPIS

One of the more consistent defenders in the national side, the son of Greece international Anthimos Kapsis has turned in a string of steady performances under Rehhagel's stewardship and has silenced superstar strikers Andriy Shevchenko, Raul and Thierry Henry internationally.

## Georgios KARAGOURIS

Midfield wizard who captained the Greek under-21 side to the runners-up spot in the 1998 European Championships. Relishes big games, and saves his most impressive performances for the Champions League, scoring goals against European giants Manchester United, Juventus and Arsenal. Early in his career he was compared to Mimis Domazos, the former Panathinaikos midfield general who skippered the club to the 1971 Champions Cup Final.

Born: Ma

## Konstantinos KATSOURANIS

Quick, skilful playmaker widely tipped to inherit Zagorakis's place in the side in the coming seasons. Possesses a ferocious long-range shot, and scored at age 17 on his senior club debut for Greek club side Panahaiki. The star of the Under-21 side at the European Championships in 2002, his inspirational performances earned him a move to AEK Athens that year. A genuine match-winner.

## Stefanos KOTSOLIS

Dependable backup goalkeeper who is used to playing the role of Nikopolidis's understudy, having done it for five years at Panathinaikos. Moved to mid-tablers Larisa in 2005, breaking into the national squad after a string of impressive league performances and a run to the semi-finals of the Greek cup. Has never lost a game wearing the national shirt.

Caps: Goals:

## Sotirios KYRGIAKOS

Fleet-footed full-back who excels as an aggressive man-marker, a key role under Rehhagel's regime. Missed Euro 2004 after suffering a knee injury playing in a UEFA Champions League tie for Panathinaikos against Rangers earlier that year. Coincidentally completed a move to the Scottish club after recovering from the injury, and has proved a versatile performer during his time in Glasgow.

## Panagiotis LAGOS

Youngster with a big future in the international game, having made his senior international debut in January. Needs to mature physically, but has a fearlessness and an eye for goal that suggest he may emerge into a player of world class. Has already attracted a number of suitors with his club performances, and big-name clubs will surely come calling. One to watch.

Club: Irakl ka,

## Vasilios LAKIS

Pacy midfielder who has lost out to Giannakopoulos over the past few years in the battle for the right wing role. Often stretches defences with his speed and is an effective crosser. Started his career as a defender, but switched positions in his early days. Returned to long-time club AEK Athens last October after a year in England with Crystal Palace.

Club: AEK A
Caps: 35 Goals:

## Evangelos MANTZIOS

One of the brightest stars in Greek football, experts have labelled him a better version of Angelos Charisteas because of his aerial strength. On the field, the Panionios youth product, who moved to Panathinaikos last summer, is a blur of motion, making him a nightmare for opposing defences. Captain for Greece's 2006 European Under-21 Championship campaign, it should not be long before he plays a similarly influential senior role.

## Antonios NIKOPOLIDIS

A reliable, consistent performer and a veteran of 80 caps since his international debut in 1999. Did not concede a goal in the knockout stages of Greece's historic Euro 2004 triumph, and was named the tournament's best goalkeeper for his calm authority and positional savvy. Spent 15 years with Greek giants Panathinaikos, reaching the quarter-finals of the UEFA Champions League in 2002-03 before moving to rivals Olympiakos in 2004.

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## Dimitrios PAPADOPOULOS

Promising player who may become a first-team regular under Rehhagel but has been mainly limited to the bench under the German coach. Born in Uzbekistan to Greek parents, he made his debut for hometown club Akratitos at 16, but belied his youth by turning in a series of mature displays, helping the side reach the first division for the first time. Captained the national under-21 side and played in the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

## Dimitrios SALPIGIDIS

The fastest player in Greek football. A chef in the Greek army before his talent was realised by PAOK, who made him captain at just 21 when near bankruptcy forced them to shed all their star names. Has achieved cult status with his club and rotates between roles on the right wing and the attack.

## Georgios SAMARAS

Tall, rangy striker who made his name with Dutch side Heerenveen, and made a big money move to England's Manchester City in January. Enigmatic and often appears uninterested, but has the technique, height and football brain to become a European star and – in England legend Stuart Pearce – a manager certain to light a fire under him, and make it happen.

## Georgios SEITARIDIS

Hit the headlines aged 19 with a stunning goal against Manchester United in the UEFA Champions League, and made his senior international debut a year later. Comes from a family of renowned footballers, but surpassed their achievements by playing an integral part in the victorious Euro 2004 side before joining then European champions Porto in Portugal. The most expensive player in Greek history after his $2.9 million move to Dynamo Moscow.

## Michail SIFAKIS

The only uncapped member of the squad, but a young man who many tip as the natural successor to Nikopolidis. The son of OF Crete's legendary shot stopper Myronas Sifakis, Michail pulled on the team's No.1 shirt for the first time aged 18. Expected to join one of Greece's 'big three' in the summer.

## Zisis VRYZAS

Tall forward capable of dropping back into midfield, and at his best when operating as a withdrawn striker. Intelligent player who excels at linking midfield and attack, his technique and range of passing are the envy of the squad. Has 68 caps from a 12-year career for the international side, for whom he has always proved a dependable player, if not one who has entirely fulfilled his huge promise.

## Loukas VYNTRA

Promising central defender who can also fill in at right back, and looks set to play an important role when Rehhagel revamps his ageing team. Has made nine appearances since making his senior international debut a year ago, and displays the confidence and maturity to suggest a big future on the international stage.

## Theodoros ZAGORAKIS

Inspirational captain, industrious midfielder, and the heartbeat of the Greece side, who was named player of the tournament for his stellar displays in Euro 2004. Equally adept at breaking down opposition forays as at launching his own team's attacks from a deep-lying role in midfield. Bears an uncanny resemblance to Australian actor Hugh Jackman, and is widely considered his country's greatest ever player.

- Fatigue?
- Flat tyre?
- Mini skirt?

SBS

Greece captain Theodoros Zagorakis celebrates victory with teammates Nikolaos Dabizas and Stylianos Venetidis

# The MIRACLE

## Greece's surprise win at Euro 2004 elevated the team to the nation's sporting pantheon.

**By Stuart Sykes**

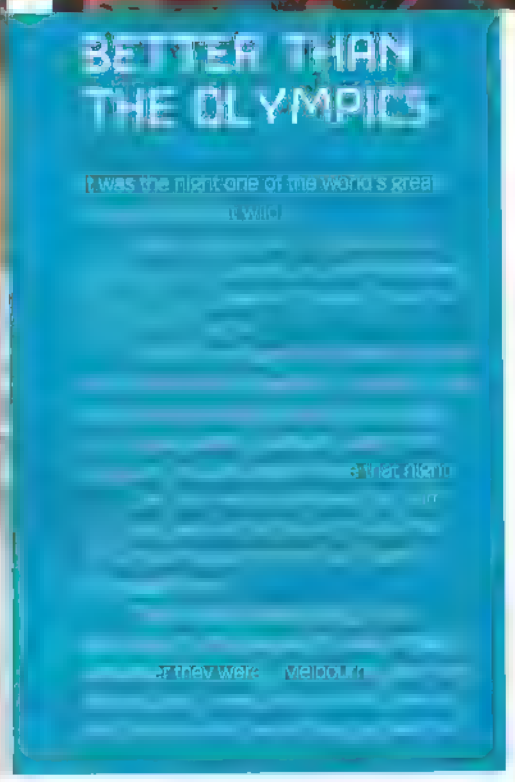
Think of Hercules, Achilles or Odysseus, and the virtues of discipline, teamwork and organisation are not necessarily the first things that spring to mind. For the current generation of Greek heroes, though, they most certainly were.

It was their patience, will to work for each other and sheer doggedness instilled by (non-Greek) coach Otto Rehhagel that carried the Greek national side to one of football's most surprising triumphs at the European Championships of 2004.

Greece had never previously won a match in any Finals competition it had reached. But when host nation Portugal trotted out a ship (allegedly an homage to explorer Vasco da Gama) as the symbol of Euro 2004, it was promptly annexed by the hordes of Hellas fans whose team became the equivalent of a pirate vessel in Portuguese waters.

What happened at Euro 2004 was all the more remarkable when you consider that Greece lost its first two matches in the qualifying competition for Euro 2004. The first was at home to Spain, the second away to Ukraine, with both matches leaving Greece without a goal. But there

Zagorakis's triumphant return to Athens with the Euro 2004 trophy.




was a hint of things to come when they then hit a six-game winning streak in which they didn't concede a goal and qualified at the top of their group.

Group A included Portugal, Spain, Russia and Greece. On June 12 Rehhagel's men, a blend of names from the big Greek clubs like Panathinaikos and AEK Athens and a smattering of other European sides, lined up as the first lambs to what was expected to be a Portuguese slaughter in Porto's Estadio do Dragão.

But Greece hadn't read the script. Within seven minutes they were ahead thanks to Giorgios Karagounis, who was to be one of their men in the spotlight for reasons both good and bad. An Angelos Basinas penalty on 51 minutes set the seal on the first upset of the tournament, despite Cristiano Ronaldo's add-on time counter for the hosts.

Four days later Angelos Charisteas got the first of his three crucial goals in the tournament as Greece drew 1-1 with Spain in Porto after Fernando Morientes had opened the scoring in the first half. It was perhaps the first turning point for Greece, as they could then afford to lose 2-1 to Russia in the final group game and still advance with four points and four goals as opposed to Spain's two.

The quarter-final in Lisbon on June 25 brought them up against France's team of ageing stars, led by the great Zidane and including FIFA World Cup-winners Barthez, Thuram, Lizarazu and more. Charisteas struck on 65 minutes and it was enough. Next up the free-scoring, free-spirited Czech Republic, Milan Baros included. This time it took a silver goal from Traianos Dellas to break the deadlock – and the Roma defender would go on to be one of the stars of the final itself.

The final had Greece facing the host nation again. It was the first time that two teams who had met in the opening match had met in the final. A packed Estadio da Luz sat back to watch Portuguese captain Figo lead Carvalho, Nuno Valente, Deco and Ronaldo on a romp. Once again Greece saw it differently.

Karagounis was absent, his latest brace of yellow cards having caught up with the Inter Milan midfielder. Not to worry: superbly captained by Theo Zagorakis, the midfield powerhouse who went on to be named the tournament's best player, the pirate ship repelled all boarders as Portugal came out with guns blazing.

Nikopolidis blocked Miguel's early tester with his legs, Manicche sent one inches wide from the edge of the box. As 30 minutes came and went with no damage suffered, Greek spirits rose.

Just before the 60-minute mark, Werder Bremen's Charisteas rose to meet a Basinas corner and nodded in the only goal of the final. Zagorakis and his pirate crew had sunk the Portuguese man-o'-war without trace.

The Greeks may have had a word for it, but Rehhagel didn't. The first foreign coach to lead his team to a major championship win, the 65-year old understated things superbly when he called it "an unusual achievement for Greek football". Matter-of-fact to the end, he added, "We have developed this team for three years and now you see the result."

Now Traianos, Theodoris and Angelos were the names added to the Greek pantheon, and captain Zagorakis stayed faithful to Greek tradition. "We proved once again that the Greek soul is, and always will be, our strength," said Zagorakis. "It is the greatest gift that God ever gave us." ✖

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Greece's Stylianos Giannakopoulos in action against Spain at Euro 2004

# MAGIC Touch

Midfielder Stylianos Giannakopoulos left the glory of Greek powerhouse Olympiakos for Premiership side Bolton Wanderers – and his good fortune has travelled with him.

**By Jonathan Clegg**

As with all the members of Greece's victorious Euro 2004 squad, Stylianos Giannakopoulos will always be best remembered for his feats in Portugal on that extraordinary July night two years ago.

Despite never having won a match at a major tournament, Giannakopoulos helped Otto Rehhagel's well-oiled, disciplined outfit shock the world in Lisbon, as the nation's long quest for international success was finally realised.

In truth, however, the personal odyssey the Greek winger undertook in 2003 is far more revealing about the adventurous midfielder.

That year, having won a seventh successive league championship with Greek giants Olympiakos, Giannakopoulos said farewell to the Athens club where he was revered as a star, abandoning a comfortable existence and celebrity status in his home land to test himself in one of the major European leagues.

"Every year at Olympiakos was the same for me," recalls the man known to most simply as 'Stelios'. "We knew that whether a game was hard or easy we were going to win the title because we were by far the best team in the country. But there was something missing from my career.

"I knew I had to try the English Premiership or La Liga in Spain and I took my chances."

The fact that he did so shortly before his 29th birthday, an age when many footballers are more concerned with securing one last lucrative contract before pondering retirement, speaks volumes about Giannakopoulos' relentless dedication to self improvement.

That he chose Bolton Wanderers, despite being courted by a number of more prestigious clubs across Europe, is also telling.

The move is indicative of Giannakopoulos' genuine desire to broaden his horizons and expose himself to new experiences. Giannakopoulos weathered a stormy first few months in England to emerge as a reliable, key performer for his club side and was a measure of his formidable strength of character, though the midfielder admits that his manager, Sam Allardyce, also deserves some credit.

"I didn't need any help at Olympiakos because I had grown up in Athens and there were no problems in my life," he explains. "In England, I needed and received so much help to settle in that I dedicated part of Greece's victory in the European Championship to Bolton."

His sentiments underscore the 31-year-old star's fierce loyalty, which extends to his teammates and, most importantly, to his managers.

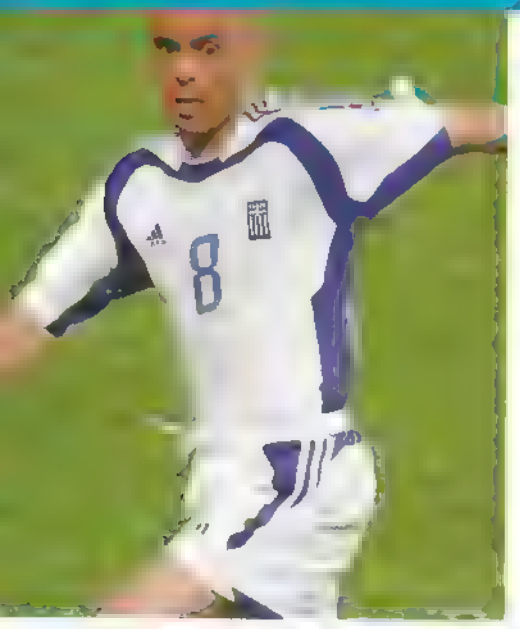
He is a staunch supporter of Otto Rehhagel, the German coach who masterminded Greece's spectacular triumph that summer, who has since suffered criticism following the country's failure to qualify for June's FIFA World Cup, and for an unadventurous, uncompromising style of play.

"[Rehhagel] was responsible for our glory in 2004," he states plainly. "People complain that we did not reach the World Cup, and that we don't play beautiful football, but the only thing I know is that we took the trophy back to our country, and it is thanks to Rehhagel."

He bristles too at criticisms of his club side that – like Greece – has been accused of employing a purely pragmatic brand of football that is concerned only with results and devoid of flair.

Having struggled to make an impression when he arrived in the Premiership, the persistent, productive midfielder is now one of the league's most effective performers. A penchant for scoring in crucial games has been a hallmark of Giannakopoulos' time in England, with decisive strikes against Liverpool and Arsenal the pick of an impressive 21-goal haul from a century of appearances for Bolton.

**"People complain that we did not reach the World Cup, but we took the [Euro] trophy back to our country, and it is thanks to Rehhagel."**



A string of outstanding performances for his two unfancied teams have helped push Giannakopoulos into the world spotlight, though it is one of the few positions in which the midfielder is uncomfortable.

"On my first day in England I liked the fact that nobody knew who I was, because it meant there would be some peaceful days," he admits. "In Greece I was never relaxed, I was recognised everywhere and was always giving photographs and autographs. You never had any peace. In England it is nice and quiet."

Unfortunately for Giannakopoulos, his consistently spectacular form for club and country means he is likely to be the centre of attention for a few more years at least. ✖

**Giannakopoulos in action during Greece's Euro 2004 campaign.**

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# REMEMBERING '74

## The road to Germany was even tougher in 1974 when the Socceroos last qualified for the FIFA World Cup.

**By Khalil Hegarty**

It has taken 32 years for Australia to break its FIFA World Cup finals drought. The squad taking to the field tonight and next month in Germany is a team of seasoned professionals. But the team that took to the pitch at the 1974 FIFA World Cup in Germany couldn't have been more different.

Strong, solid and spirited, the 1974 Socceroos were a bunch of ordinary guys with extraordinary football talent. They were paid about $20 per day to play for the national team and all worked other jobs.

Adrian Alston, part of the 1974 team, says he "lost four jobs" during the team's qualification campaign, but it had no impact on what he remembers most about the tournament: national pride.

"I just felt from then on I was a real Australian," Alston says. "There was never a prouder moment."

Back then, the FIFA World Cup finals comprised just 16 teams. Australia had the misfortune of drawing both East and West Germany in its group, as well as Chile. Add to that the fact that the late Johnny Warren missed the latter two matches with a sprained ankle and the campaign was not looking promising. The team lost both its German matches, but salvaged a draw against the Chileans.

It was a disappointing result, but the tour had its highlights; the Australian team was rated well by the German press, and a number of players were picked up by English clubs after the tournament.

What was disappointing, however, was lack of coverage in Australia. Alston says returning home was "a bit of an anti-climax".

"We'd done so well, but we didn't have the media exposure," he says. "It should have been much, much bigger."

But the legacy of the 1974 Socceroos has been slow-burning. Peter Wilson, the now reclusive captain of the 1974 team had a Sydney street named after him in 2000, and the significance of coach Rale Rasic's contributions to football in Australia is now being realised.

Rasic released his biography in April, which recounts his life growing up as an orphan in Yugoslavia and the experience he had with the team in Germany in 1974.

The former Yugoslavian youth international led the team through an intense qualification that Rasic says had the team playing at its best.

"We defended for 61 minutes in Tehran against Iran," Rasic says, describing the second leg of a qualifier that had the team down 2-0 in the 29th minute. Australia had won the first leg 3-0 in Sydney, but it was always the return leg that would test the team.

"Only great people can achieve something like that," adds Rasic.

And despite media reports suggesting otherwise, Rasic has his heart behind this year's team.

"I'm a great admirer of Bresciano, Cahill and young Culina. And the experience of Kewell, Viduka, and Schwarzer cannot be underestimated."

And his advice to them?

"Enjoy every second of the tournament. I know they're going to the Cup with a lot of pride and integrity, but enjoyment of the game is everything." ✖

The Australian team lining up alongside Chile at the FIFA World Cup in 1974.

## THE OLD ROAD TO GERMANY

The 1974 Socceroos before leaving for Germany (top) and earlier this year in Sydney (above).

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# TAKING THE STAGE

## Tonight's clash between the Qantas Matildas and Mexico is a warm-up for the Australian team's big international campaign.

While the media hype is currently focused on the Qantas Socceroos and their FIFA World Cup campaign, the Qantas Matildas also kick off their own international campaign tonight.

The friendly match against Mexico is a suitable warm-up for the team's big international test in July: the Asian Football Confederation Women's Championship qualifiers.

To be held in Adelaide, the tournament is the Qantas Matildas' first big test as part of the the Asian Football Confederation. The competition also doubles as a qualifying tournament for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China.

Tonight's match against Mexico is the Matilda's first appearance at the MCG.

"This match is vital preparation for the tournament in Adelaide with Mexico a very accomplished opponent," says Qantas Matildas Head Coach Tom Sermanni. "The players have spent a lot of time in camp in recent months and it's important to test ourselves against international opposition in a match environment."

The Qantas Matildas face a tough draw in Adelaide, with both North Korea and South Korea drawn for the same group, plus Thailand and Myanmar.

But the Australians are set up to put up a strong challenge to whoever they play – and the same goes for the Qantas Young Matildas, Australia's national under 20 team.

Within the Qantas Matildas lineup there are six players who are also playing in the Qantas Young Matildas team. They are: Sally Shipard, Lydia Williams, Collette McCallum, Kim Carroll, Leah Blayney and Kylie Ledbrook.

The Qantas Young Matildas will also be heading to the FIFA Under 20 Women's World Championships in Russia from August 17.

All these women, from the Qantas Matildas through to the junior teams are part of one of the fastest-growing sports in Australia: women's football. It is a sport that is growing in popularity for Australian women and, like the national teams, is going from strength to strength. ✖

Qantas Matildas striker Lisa De Vanna in action

### 2006 ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Adelaide, July 16-31**

GROUPS

| GROUP A | GROUP B |
|---|---|
| | |

DRAW

| | |
|---|---|
| July 16 | Australia |
| July 16 | Myanmar |
| July 18 | Thailand v DPR Korea |
| July 18 | Myanmar v Australia |
| July 19 | |
| July 19 | |
| July 20 | |
| July 20 | |
| July 21 | |
| July 21 | |
| July 22 | |
| July 22 | Australia |
| July 23 | |
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| July 24 | Australia |
| July 24 | |
| July 27 | Semi |
| July 27 | |

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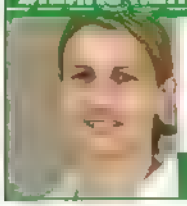
# QANTAS MATILDAS

## PLAYER PROFILES

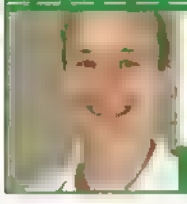
### Dianne ALAGICH

**Born** May 12, 1979
**State** South Australia
**Caps** 58 **Goals** 3
Defender

### Melissa BARBIERI

**Born** January 20, 1980
**State** [illegible]
**Caps** [illegible] **Goals** 0
Defender

### Joanne BURGESS

**Born** September 23, 1979
**State** NSW
**Caps** [illegible] **Goals** 0
Defender

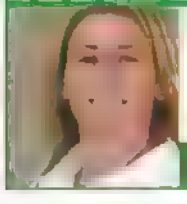
### Rhian DAVIES

**Born** January 5, 1981
**State** NSW
**Caps** 50 **Goals** 2
Defender

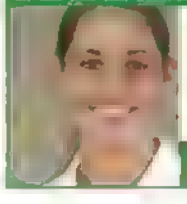
### Lisa DE VANNA

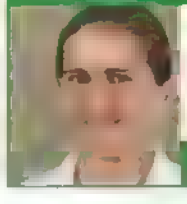
**Born** November 11, 1984
**State** Western Australia
**Caps** [illegible] **Goals** 7
Striker

### Alicia FERGUSON

**Born** October 31, 1981
**State** Queensland
**Caps** 4[illegible] **Goals** [illegible]
Defender

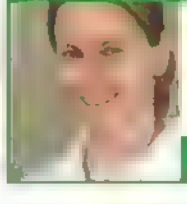
### Heather GARRIOCK

**Born** December [illegible]
**State** NSW
**Caps** 68 **Goals** [illegible]
Midfielder

### Kate GILL

**Born** December 10, 1984
**State** [illegible]
**Caps** [illegible] **Goals** [illegible]
Striker

### Lana HARCH

**Born** November 2[illegible], 1984
**State** Queensland
**Caps** 14 **Goals** 3
Midfielder

### Kylie LEDBROOK

**Born** March 20, 1986
**State** NSW
**Caps** 8 **Goals** 0
Midfielder

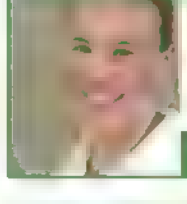
### Collette McCALLUM

**Born** March 26, 1986
**State** ACT
**Caps** 11 **Goals** 0
Midfielder

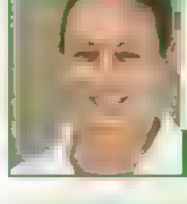
### Kate McSHEA

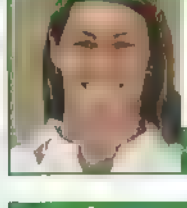
**Born** April 13, 1983
**State** Queensland
**Caps** 35 **Goals** 1
Midfielder

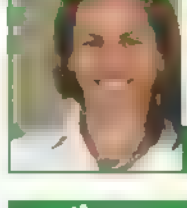
### Caitlin MUNOZ

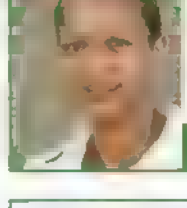
**Born** October 4, 1983
**State** ACT
**Caps** 9 **Goals** 1
Striker

### Joanne PETERS

**Born** March 11, 1979
**State** NSW
**Caps** 83 **Goals** 20
Midfielder

### Karla REUTER

**Born** June 14, 1984
**State** Queensland
**Caps** 25 **Goals** 0
Defender

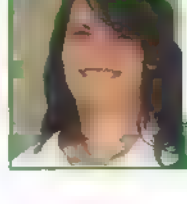
### Cheryl SALISBURY

**Born** March 8, 1974
**State** NSW
**Caps** 1[illegible] **Goals** [illegible]
Defender

### Sally SHIPARD

**Born** October 20, 1987
**State** ACT
**Caps** [illegible] **Goals** [illegible]
Midfielder

### Thea SLATYER

**Born** February 2, 1983
**State** NSW
**Caps** 1[illegible] **Goals** 1
Defender

### Sarah WALSH

**Born** January 11, 1983
**State** NSW
**Caps** 21 **Goals** 5
Striker

### Lydia WILLIAMS

**Born** March [illegible], 1986
**State** ACT
**Caps** 1 **Goals** 0
Goalkeeper

### COACHING STAFF

| Head Coach | Technical Analyst |
|---|---|
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Jo Sanders | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Julian Russell-Jones | [illegible] |

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# ORIENT EXPRESS

qualifier. But the road to the region's biggest football tournament won't be easy.

Brett Holman made an impressive senior national debut against Bahrain in February alongside a clutch of younger players.

As the FIFA World Cup approaches, its super-sized silhouette eclipses the continent of Asia. This is where Australia's football future will be played out, on fields stretching from Iraq in the west to Guam in the east.

For Australia, the Asian equation equals opportunity: the opportunity to mix it with credible opposition on the field and tap into untold marketing riches off it.

Becoming part of a 46-team Asian Football Confederation has rescued Australian from the rock-pool of Oceania Football Confederation, where the only certainty was remaining marooned in football's shallow end.

The landscape ahead is scattered with challenges, including the prestigious Asian Cup, the fast-growing Asian Champions League — for which the 2007 Hyundai A-League minor premiers and grand final winners will be eligible — and, of course, the qualifiers for all future FIFA World Cup finals.

And for anybody sceptical about the size of the Asian canvas, consider this: a worldwide television audience of 450 million watched the 2004 Asian Cup final between Japan and China, with 250 million of those coming from mainland China alone.

The game was also the highest rating TV event in Japan for that year.

Assistant Qantas Socceroos coach Graham Arnold, who is also at the controls of the Olyroos as they bid to qualify for Beijing 2008, is seeking to instil in players a sense of responsibility and commitment as the Orient express chugs out of the station.

"Moving into Asia is a massive boost for the Socceroos and our club sides," he says. "It's a brand new horizon: it saves us from the curse of a four-year World Cup cycle and gives our players so much more to play for and to aspire to.

"It also lifts the level of the opposition on all fronts. People who think it's an easy route to future World Cup and Asian Cup finals couldn't be more wrong.

"We'll need to take every match we play seriously and I know the players will do that."

With five Asian Cup qualifiers scheduled between August and November, Arnold is seeking to galvanise senior players, many of whom are on the cusp of international retirement or hold reservations about a program of matches sure to place them at loggerheads with their European clubs.

"The idea is to ask players like Stan Lazaridis, Tony Popovic and Tony Vidmar to delay their retirement and help us on the journey into Asia," says Arnold.

"We'll possibly have some shock retirements after the World Cup and there will be a new generation of players knocking on the door."

One of them is Dutch-based striker Brett Holman, the scorer of 14 goals in 32 games for Excelsior, a team en route to promotion to division one in the Netherlands this season.

He made an impressive debut in February's Asian Cup opener against Bahrain in Manama, a match won 3-1 by the Qantas Socceroos.

And with a clutch of games coming up against Bahrain, Kuwait and Lebanon before the end of the year, 22-year-old Holman believes his time is coming.

"You'll have some retirements after Germany and also there will be senior players unavailable, so this is a chance for the next generation to stake a claim and get some game time for their country," he says.

Recently returned from a four-nation tournament involving the Olyroos in Vietnam, Arnold says he is amazed by the nation's football infrastructure.

"It's incredible," he says. "They have wonderful stadiums and even their training pitches are like Wembley. In that respect they are way ahead of us."

On the opposition ahead, he adds. "I'd lump Bahrain (FIFA ranking 54), Kuwait (73) and Lebanon (121) pretty much together. They are all surprisingly physical and they make you work for everything you get." ✖

*Dave Lewis covers football for the* Daily Telegraph *in Sydney*

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# PERFECT **PITCH**

## Fans lapped up the high-quality footballl that made the inaugural Hyundai A-League a success – and it's set to continue in 2006–07.

**By Michael Lynch**

Nine months ago Football Federation Australia chairman Frank Lowy made an impassioned plea on the eve of the kick off of the first ever Hyundai A-League season, urging not just supporters of "new football" to come to matches.

He implored the sport's traditional fan base not to ignore the game's fresh start. He wanted them to dump their historical enmities and rivalries and fully get behind the new clubs.

Lowy got his wish. Support was strong for most clubs (apart from the hapless New Zealand Knights) and there was an average home-and-away season gate of close to 11,000 people.

All up, more than 1 million fans attended regular season and finals games, with an Aussie Stadium sell-out crowd watching Sydney FC take the spoils over the Central Coast Mariners in the first-ever Grand Final.

The big task now is to repeat the trick. It was always important to have a strong first campaign, but it is perhaps even more vital to show, in year two, that the inaugural Hyundai A-League season was not a fluke.

With the interest generated by the Qantas Socceroos' FIFA World Cup adventure, the competition will never get a better marketing opportunity. Interest in football will be at fever pitch over the next few months.

The Fox Sports broadcast deal, which will deliver the game $17 million a year, will put money into the coffers of the clubs, guaranteeing them close to $1.5 million each in television revenues to underwrite salary costs.

That cash will help them spend more on higher quality players, either as marquee signings, on guest contracts or through the additional services agreement that allows clubs to top up player payments for extra football-related work.

Melbourne Victory striker Archie Thompson's form Melbourne fans in season

## THE NEXT VICTORY

Melbourne Victory had a lackl ustre inaugura Hyundai A-League season. It was a something of a shock that the club from the nation's second largest centre finished last of the seven Australian clubs in the eight team competition

It didn't look that way one third of way through the campaign as an Archie Thompson-inspired Melbourne belted Sydney 3-0 and went to the top of the adde

This season coach Ernie Merrick id he must deliver finals football. H in five or more n year, when he sig inexperienced play squad by recruiting s tv is to boost the club's nd support up front for Archie ield and

ing more than

A number of Socceroos including players like Stan Lazaridis, Tony Vidmar, Craig Moore and Danny Tiatto have already indicated an interest in returning to play in the Hyundai A-League, if not this season then in the near future. Attracting such big names will not only increase the professionalism of the league, but will also help drive media and sponsorship interest, fuelling further spectator and financial support for the game.

The Hyundai A-League will also get a huge boost this season from the fact that its top two clubs will play in the Asian Champions League in 2007. Competition at such a high level will bring the clubs a hefty cash boost and also give them, their fans and their sponsors exposure across Asia and the Middle East. It could also help top Australian teams lure high-quality players from overseas.

Sydney will again prove tough to beat, even without last season's coach Pierre Littbarski, and the team has already been strengthened by the addition of former Queensland Roar striker and Australian international Alex Brosque.

Adelaide, the inaugural premiers who failed to make the Grand Final, will again be competitive under the combative leadership of coach John Kosmina who is also ringing the changes with a new squad lineup.

The Mariners will be aiming to prove that their first season success was not a one-off, and will continue to build on the crowds they attract to their Gosford home.

Newcastle will be making a fresh start under ex-NSL championship-winning coach Nick Theodorakopoulos. Queensland Roar boss Miron Bleiberg, always aggressive in the recruiting arena, is building what looks to be another attractive side in Brisbane.

Perth Glory is in many ways starting all over again, with new owners, a new coach and several new players. The same applies to the New Zealand Knights, who were a shambles in year one, as their record of just one win from 21 games illustrates. They too will have many new faces on the playing roster and a new coach. X

*Michael Lynch is chief football writer for* The Age.

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# HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2006-07

| ROUND | FIXTURE | LOCAL KICK-OFF |
|---|---|---|
| **ROUND 1** | | |
| 25/08/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Adelaide United FC | 8.00 pm |
| 26/08/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs Perth Glory FC | 7.00 pm |
| 27/08/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 5.00 pm |
| 27/08/06 | Sydney FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 7.00 pm |
| **ROUND 2** | | |
| 01/09/06 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 8.00 pm |
| 02/09/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Adelaide United FC | 2.30 pm |
| 02/09/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Sydney FC | 7.00 pm |
| 03/09/06 | Perth Glory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 3.00 pm |
| **ROUND 3** | | |
| 08/09/06 | Adelaide United FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 7.30 pm |
| 09/09/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 7.00 pm |
| 10/09/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 12.30 pm |
| 10/09/06 | Perth Glory FC vs Sydney FC | 3.00 pm |
| **ROUND 4** | | |
| 15/09/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 8.00 pm |
| 16/09/06 | Adelaide United FC vs Perth Glory FC | 6.30 pm |
| 17/09/06 | Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 3.00 pm |
| 17/09/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 5.00 pm |
| **ROUND 5** | | |
| 21/09/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Sydney FC | 8.00 pm |
| 22/09/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs Adelaide United FC | 8.00 pm |
| 23/09/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 7.00 pm |
| 24/09/06 | Perth Glory FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 3.00 pm |
| **ROUND 6** | | |
| 28/09/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 8.00 pm |
| 29/09/06 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Perth Glory FC | 8.00 pm |
| 01/10/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 5.00 pm |
| 02/10/06 | Adelaide United FC vs Sydney FC | 4.30 pm |
| **ROUND 7** | | |
| 06/10/06 | Adelaide United FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 7.30 pm |
| 06/10/06 | Perth Glory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 8.00 pm |
| 08/10/06 | Sydney FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 3.00 pm |
| 08/10/06 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 5.00 pm |

| ROUND | FIXTURE | LOCAL KICK-OFF |
|---|---|---|
| **ROUND 8** | | |
| 13/10/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Sydney FC | 8.00 pm |
| 14/10/06 | Newcastle Jets FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 7.00 pm |
| 15/10/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Adelaide United FC | 5.00 pm |
| 15/10/06 | Perth Glory FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 5.00 pm |
| **ROUND 9** | | |
| 20/10/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Perth Glory FC | 8.00 pm |
| 21/10/06 | Sydney FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 7.00 pm |
| 22/10/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 5.00 pm |
| 22/10/06 | Adelaide United FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 6.30 pm |
| **ROUND 10** | | |
| 27/10/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 8.00 pm |
| 27/10/06 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Adelaide United FC | 8.00 pm |
| 28/10/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 7.00 pm |
| 29/10/06 | Sydney FC vs Perth Glory FC | 5.00 pm |
| **ROUND 11** | | |
| 03/11/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 8.00 pm |
| 04/11/06 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Sydney FC | 7.00 pm |
| 05/11/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 5.00 pm |
| 05/11/06 | Adelaide United FC vs Perth Glory FC | 4.30 pm |
| **ROUND 12** | | |
| 09/11/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Perth Glory FC | 8.00 pm |
| 10/11/06 | Sydney FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 8.00 pm |
| 11/11/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs Adelaide United FC | 7.00 pm |
| 12/11/06 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 5.00 pm |
| **ROUND 13** | | |
| 17/11/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 7.00 pm |
| 18/11/06 | Perth Glory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 5.00 pm |
| 19/11/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 5.00 pm |
| 19/11/06 | Sydney FC vs Adelaide United FC | 5.00 pm |
| **ROUND 14** | | |
| 24/11/06 | Sydney FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 8.00 pm |
| 25/11/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Adelaide United FC | 7.00 pm |
| 26/11/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 5.00 pm |
| 26/11/06 | Perth Glory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 4.00 pm |

| ROUND | FIXTURE | LOCAL KICK-OFF |
|---|---|---|
| **ROUND 15** | | |
| 01/12/06 | Adelaide United FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 7.30 pm |
| 02/12/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs Perth Glory FC | 7.00 pm |
| 03/12/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 5.00 pm |
| 03/12/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Sydney FC | 5.00 pm |
| **ROUND 16** | | |
| 07/12/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 7.00 pm |
| 08/12/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Sydney FC | 8.00 pm |
| 10/12/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Perth Glory FC | 5.00 pm |
| 10/12/06 | Adelaide United FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 6.30 pm |
| **ROUND 17** | | |
| 14/12/06 | Sydney FC vs Perth Glory FC | 8.00 pm |
| 15/12/06 | Adelaide United FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 7.30 pm |
| 16/12/06 | Queensland Roar FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 7.00 pm |
| 17/12/06 | Melbourne Victory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 7.00 pm |
| **CHRISTMAS BREAK - 22-24 DEC** | | |
| **ROUND 18** | | |
| 28/12/06 | Perth Glory FC vs Adelaide United FC | 7.00 pm |
| 29/12/06 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 8.00 pm |
| 31/12/06 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 6.00 pm |
| 01/01/07 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Sydney FC | 6.00 pm |
| **ROUND 19** | | |
| 04/01/07 | Adelaide United FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 7.40 pm |
| 05/01/07 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC | 8.00 pm |
| 07/01/07 | Sydney FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 7.00 pm |
| 07/01/07 | Perth Glory FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 6.00 pm |
| **ROUND 20** | | |
| 11/01/07 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs New Zealand Knights FC | 8.00 pm |
| 12/01/07 | Melbourne Victory FC vs Queensland Roar FC | 8.00 pm |
| 14/01/07 | Adelaide United FC vs Sydney FC | 6.30 pm |
| 14/01/07 | Perth Glory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC | 6.00 pm |

| ROUND | FIXTURE | LOCAL KICK-OFF |
|---|---|---|
| **ROUND 21** | | |
| 19/01/07 | Newcastle Jets FC vs Melbourne Victory FC | 8.00 pm |
| 20/01/07 | Queensland Roar FC vs Sydney FC | 7.00 pm |
| 21/01/07 | New Zealand Knights FC vs Perth Glory FC | 7.00 pm |
| 21/01/07 | Central Coast Mariners FC vs Adelaide United FC | 7.00 pm |
| **FINALS** | | |
| **WEEK 1** | **SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEG** | |
| 26/01/07 | 1 v 2 OR 3 v 4 | TBA |
| 28/01/07 | 1 v 2 OR 3 v 4 | TBA |
| **WEEK 2** | **SEMI-FINALS – 2ND LEG** | |
| 02/02/07 | 1 v 2 OR 3 v 4 | TBA |
| 04/02/07 | 1 v 2 OR 3 v 4 | TBA |
| **WEEK 3** | **PRELIMINARY FINAL** | |
| 11/02/07 | Loser (1 v 2) vs Winner (3 v 4) | TBA |
| **WEEK 4** | **GRAND FINAL** | |
| 18/02/07 | Winner (1 v 2) vs Winner Preliminary Final | TBA |

* NOTE: Match dates and kick-off times subject to change without notice

Home team listed first

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# From the ground up

## Football Federation Australia's Telstra Football Anytime is coming to a town near you.

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The Telstra Football Anytime program is an exciting new initiative aimed at introducing children, their families and friends to football. Telstra Football Anytime is an ideal introduction to football for boys and girls aged 6-12 years, as it is 'game-centred' and encourages children to play the game anywhere, anytime and with anyone. The focus of Telstra Football Anytime is on small-sided games and age appropriate activities with a particular emphasis on enjoyment.

The nation-wide scheme kicked off in Brisbane on Friday, March 10 with Queensland Roar players Chad Gibson and Remo Buess in attendance to help launch the program and put some enthusiastic youngsters through their paces.

The Melbourne program was launched in mid-April in Berwick with the help of Victory players Danny Allsopp and Steve Pantelidis. It is continuing throughout May and June at Berwick, Cranbourne, Pakenham and Hampton Park.

"The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves playing small-sided games, which meant lots of involvement for all," says Melbourne Victory striker Danny Allsopp.

"It was great to be able to be get out and help some youngsters with some basic skills and introduce some enthusiastic boys and girls to football."

Adelaide United players were also present when the South Australian program commenced at Hindmarsh Stadium and Underdale High School last month.

New South Wales and the Northern Territory also had their first taste of Telstra Football Anytime during April-May with Western Australia in June and Tasmania to follow.

Telstra Football Anytime (TFA) is a six-week, six-session program co-ordinated by FFA-accredited coaches who are specifically trained and briefed to effectively deliver TFA in community hubs and school-based programs.

For a cost of just $66, children participate in the six-session program and receive a kit of equipment that enables them to participate beyond the formal conclusion of the program.

The kit includes a Nike Total 90 all-surface football, a Nike Brasilia equipment bag, markers to use as goals and to mark out a field and a drink bottle.

The program also encourages parents to become actively involved in the delivery of the sessions and support their children as they experience the fun and excitement of playing football.

Similarly, local clubs are also encouraged to become involved with their Community or School Telstra Football Anytime program to ensure that those parents and children who want to join local club football are able to do so.

Go to the new-look FFA website (www.footballaustralia.com.au) to find out when Telstra Football Anytime is in your area, to learn more about the program or to register. ✖

The Socceroos are on the road to Germany. Why not let them know you're behind them by sending your very own message of support with a Telstra HeroMessage®. Just send a text or picture message to **0428 MYHERO** or visit **heromessage.telstra.com**

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For full terms and conditions visit www.heromessage.telstra.com or the Telstra kiosk. Entries open 5.00pm AEST 25/05/06 and close 8.30pm AEST 25/05/06. Major and Minor winners drawn during the second half of the Powerade Cup on 25/05/06 and winners will be notified by text before the completion of the match. The major prize pool is five Samsung Z510 3G mobile phones valued at $799 each. Minor prize pool is fifty Nike Footballs valued at $20 each. Prizes must be claimed at the Telstra kiosk at the MCG before 10.30pm. Cost of text and picture messages will be charged at your standard service carrier rates. The promoter is Telstra ABN 33 051 775 556.
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Brendan SANTALAB..Belgium Sint Truiden

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Eddy BOSNAR.....HNK Rijeka

### CYPRUS
Adam FOTI.....AE Paphos
Paul OKON.....APOEL Nicosia

### DENMARK
Shane CANSDELL-SHERRIFF..AGF Aarhus
Alison FORMAN.....Fortuna Hjorring

### ENGLAND
Predrag BOJIC.....Northampton Town
Jon BRADY.....Cambridge United
Tim CAHILL.....Everton
Alex CISAK.....Leicester City
Chris COYNE.....Luton Town
Clint DAVIES.....Woking
Aaron DOWNES.....Chesterfield
Hayden DOYLE.....Stoke City
Gareth EDDS.....Milton Keynes
Brett EMERTON.....Blackburn Rovers
Adam FEDERICI.....Reading
John FILAN.....Wigan Athletic
Richard GARCIA.....Colchester United
Adam GRIFFITHS.....Bournemouth
Joel GRIFFITHS.....Leeds United
Rostyn GRIFFITHS...Blackburn Rovers
Scott GUYETT.....Yeovil Town
Paul HENDERSON.....Leicester City
Chris HERD.....Aston Villa
Shane HUKE.....Peterborough
Scott JAMIESON.....Bolton Wanderers
Brad JONES.....Middlesbrough
Harry KEWELL.....Liverpool
Patrick KISNORBO.....Leicester City
Stan LAZARIDIS.....Birmingham City
Shane LOWRY.....Aston Villa
Trent MCCLENAHAN.....Milton Keynes
Craig MOORE.....Newcastle United
Lucas NEILL.....Blackburn Rovers
Chris O'HARE.....Halifax Town
Les POGLIACOMI.....Blackpool
Tony POPOVIC.....Crystal Palace
Joel PORTER.....Hartlepool United
Paul REID.....Brighton & Hove Albion
Nick RIZZO.....Milton Keynes
Mark SCHWARZER.....Middlesbrough
Andrew SHEPHERD.....Cheltenham
Josip SKOKO.....Wigan Athletic
Nick STAVROULAKIS.....Carshalton Athletic
Frank TALIA.....Wycombe Wanderers
Danny TIATTO.....Leicester City
James TROISI.....Newcastle United
Mark VIDUKA.....Middlesbrough
James WESOLOWSKI.....Leicester City
Luke WILKSHIRE.....Bristol City

### FRANCE
Adam HARDY.....Olympique Marseille

### GERMANY
Paul AGOSTINO.....1860 Munich
Peter BULJAN.....Eintracht Trier
Frank JURIC.....Hannover 96
Joshua KENNEDY.....Dynamo Dresden
Sasa RADULOVIC.....FC Augsburg
Chris TADROSSE.....KFC Uerdingen
Christophe TEINERT..SpVgg Unterhaching
Morton VASS.....Holstein Kiel

### GREECE
Adriano PELLEGRINO.....Panachaiki
Kyriakos TOHOUROGLOU..PAOK Salonika
Peter ZORBAS.....Panachaiki

Mark Schwarzer
*Middlesbrough*

### ITALY
Marco BRESCIANO.....Parma
Vince GRELLA.....Parma
Zeljko KALAC.....AC Milan
Mario KARLOVIC.....AS Cittadella
Adrian MADASCHI.....Grosseto
Carl VALERI.....Grosseto
Jess VAN STRATTAN.....Verona
Max VIERI.....AC Arezzo

### MALAYSIA
David HARDING.....Johor

### MALTA
Shane TAGLIAFERRO..Msida St. Joseph

### NETHERLANDS
Nathan COE.....PSV Eindhoven
Jason CULINA.....PSV Eindhoven
Brett HOLMAN.....Excelsior
Archie THOMPSON.....PSV Eindhoven
Tony VIDMAR.....NAC Breda
Peter ZOIS.....Willem II

### NORWAY
Ahmad ELRICH.....Lyn
Dylan MACALLISTER.....Lyn
Shane STEFANUTTO.....Lillestrom
Kasey WEHRMAN.....Lillestrom

### POLAND
Jacob BURNS.....Wisla Krakow

### PORTUGAL
Kaz PATAFTA.....Benfica
Cameron WATSON.....Porto

### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
Chris O'CONNOR.....Bray Wanderers
Adam HUGHES.....Sligo Rovers

### ROMANIA
Michael BAIRD..Universitatae Craiova
Ryan CLARKE...Universitatae Craiova
Daniel CLITNOVICI..Universitatae Craiova
Ryan GRIFFITHS..FC National Bucuresti
Jon MCKAIN..FCU Politehnica Timisoara
Josh MITCHELL..Universitatae Craiova
Samuel SHORE..FC National Bucuresti
Wayne SRHOJ...FC National Bucuresti
Michael THWAITE.FC National Bucuresti

### SCOTLAND
Jamie GARSIDE.....Dundee
Danny INVINCIBILE.....Kilmarnock
Stuart LOVELL.....Queen of the South
John MAISANO.....Stranraer
Daniel MCBREEN.....Falkirk
Scott MCDONALD.....Motherwell
Matthew PARK.....Hearts
Scott TUNBRIDGE..Hamilton Academical
Matthew WARDLE.....Livingstone
Lindsay Wilson.....Kilmarnock

### SINGAPORE
Jon ANGELUCCI.....Sengkang Punggol
Alex DURIC..Singapore Armed Forces

### SPAIN
John ALOISI.....Alaves
Jose BELLO-AMIGO.....Poli Ejido

### SWEDEN
Ante COVIC.....Hammarby
Chay HEWS.....Vastra Frolunda

### SWITZERLAND
Scott CHIPPERFIELD.....FC Basel
Ljubo MILICEVIC.....FC Thun
Mile STERJOVSKI.....FC Basel

### TURKEY
Michael PETKOVIC.....Sivasspor

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